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July, 2023

Commodore's Letter

Fellow Members,

In spite of challenging weather, the season is well underway. With the help of many volunteers, both the Blessing of the Fleet and the AFSS pancake breakfast were very successful. And of course, it was great to see so many people enjoying these traditional events. Thank you to everyone who participated.

I also want to thank you for your continued patience with the website. OBYC is still working out some kinks, especially with the online sign-up process. We think we will have it functioning properly very soon. If you are having difficulty signing up for an event, please let us know and we will add you manually.

This past winter, the club was forced to make a change in our Web site provider, because the long-time proprietor informed us he was leaving the business. We found a new local provider and started the transition process with the hope and expectation that it would be relatively seamless. We intended to simply move our existing Wordpress-based Website to the new provider with minimal change.

As we began the transition from the old site, we learned we basically had to start from scratch. Over the years, our previous provider had helped us by designing various tweaks and workarounds. Moreover, some of them relied on Wordpress functions that have since been updated. As a result, features we relied on didn't move smoothly. Our new web designer, who

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Sailing School Starts 23rd Season

By Sue Baker

The Abbot Fletcher Sailing School kicked off its 23rd season Monday, following a record-breaking Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser on Saturday morning where 219 hungry people enjoyed bountiful pancakes and sausage. Attendance was up sharply from 165 last year.

Erin Kenyon Deschenes is heading the sailing school this year for the fifth consecutive season. Erin, whose parents are longtime OBYC members, is an elementary school teacher and veteran sailor.

AFSS is a major focus of OBYC, teaching the skills and traditions of small boat sailing for new generations

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has been building Websites for 15 years, is quite knowledgeable and has been responsive and supportive.

Board member Andy Rusczek has spent many hours working with our developer to fully restore our digital footprint. If you see him at the club let him know you appreciate his work.

Finally, a quick reminder about the building: If you are the last person there, please make sure the building is closed and locked. The outside door by the restrooms remains unlocked, but the internal door between the club and the restrooms should be secured and locked. All other external doors should be locked and inside lights turned off.

Happy July,
Liz



*Nick Nichols
introduces Rev. Kitty Babson at
the Blessing of the Fleet*



*Margie Rusczek and grandchildren
chat with Dick Stevens*



*Charlie Johnson and Paul Cournoyer
listen to the Blessing*

Pancake Breakfast

*Photos by Christina Bulkeley and
Liz Incze*



Griddle Masters, Lew Incze, Nick Nichols, Chris Nichols, Tom Nicholson, Bob Gill, Matt Deschenes, Ed Kenyon



Sailing School

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It is also a form of community outreach since enrollment in the one and two-week sessions is open to all. Most years AFSS is the only sailing program for youth in the immediate area.

Enrollment for classes this year is down because the Club's website wasn't able to process online applications. Beginner, intermediate and racing classes still have openings for every two-week session. The second racing class, scheduled to start July 24, has been cancelled. Details for signing up during the next six weeks; are at www.obyc.org/afss where you can learn more about this year's program.

Beginners sail in the mornings when winds are light, developing the skills to sail alone in the club's Optis by the end of the week. Afternoons are for Intermediates who sail in Optis and the Rhodes 19 and the club's 420's.

School staffers include the returning Karl Kreuze and former volunteer Chloe Filipowicz as paid instructors. Four new volunteers, all of whom have attended AFSS for many years, round out this year's staff. All staff are First Aid and CPR certified, and the paid instructors have US Sailing certification.

Dozens of OBYC members are active as volunteers, Sailing Committee members sign up to be monitors, usually once or twice during the 6-week program. Working from the clubhouse, they assist in whatever is needed by Erin, including staying in contact with staff via VHF radio.

Diana and Ed Kenyon and Cathy and Tom Nicholson coordinated the Pancake breakfast this year. They are taking the reins from George Kinser who had headed it up for several years.

Sailing Committee members partnered with the AFSS staff to prepare and serve the meal that included plain and blueberry pancakes, sausage, real maple syrup generously donated by Dan Stevens and Larry Barker, juice and coffee. Barbara Messamore worked her magic creating a gigantic raffle basket filled with items donated by club members.

The next fundraising event for AFSS is the Silent Auction via Zoom from 10 to 12 on Saturday, July 15. Chris and Karina Fletcher, who recently relocated to Florida, will be hosting this remotely. Look for eblasts detailing more information about auction items available, including the many gift certificates to local establishments. A Zoom link will be made available closer to the event.



Head Instructor Erin Deschenes at center of her staff

Social Calendar

2023 OBYC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 Thursday at 5:00 pm for all Saturday events and the day before at 5:00 pm for all other events.**

Fri 6/2-8/25 10am-1pm **BRIDGE** – Meets weekly every Friday through end of August.
If interested please contact Bobbi Robertson.

Tues 6/6-9/26 1:30-4 pm **MAHJONGG** – Meets weekly every Tuesday through end of September. If interested please contact Linda Kittle

Tues 6/20-9/12 **YOGA with Kara Douglas** – Meets weekly every Tuesday
7:15-8:15 am through mid-Sept. More info later.

Tues 6/20** 7-8:00 pm BOOK GROUP #1 – Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty
Moderator: Teena Patton

Wed 6/21-8/30 **WEDNESDAY BINGO!** - NO sign up
6:00 pm Dinner - Bring your own entrée (may use the grill) dish to share
(appetizer, vegetable/salad, side, or dessert)
7:00 pm BINGO begins! - Bring a wrapped gift (under \$5 value per
person. Every game has a winner. Bingo ends when all gifts
are selected. Fun for ALL ages!

Fri 6/23-9/15 **YOGA with Kevin Wicks** – Meets weekly every Friday
7:15-8:15 am through mid-Sept. More info later. Alert

Mon-Fri 7/3-8/11 9am-4pm **AFSS CLASSES**

Sat 7/8** 12:30-2:30 pm FAMILY DAY – SAIL ON SCHOONER “ALERT”
Advance sign-ups are a must! OBYC members Capt. Bethany and Capt. Perry are
offering club members a free sailing cruise — tips for crew appreciated. Children
under 10 must wear life jackets. Handheld snacks are welcome. Ship leaves from
OBYC docks. If excess people sign up a second cruise will leave at 10:30.
Sign-up deadline is Thursday July 6, at 5 p.m.

Sat 7/8 9:00 pm **COOK’S FIREWORKS!!** Starting sometime between 9-9:30pm

Fri 7/14 5:00-? pm **CASUAL FRIDAY (JULY)** – Social hour (bring an appetizer), lawn games. Bring your own entrée (may use the grill) and a dish to share if you'd like. NO sign up.

Sat 7/15 10:00-Noon **AFSS SILENT "ONLINE" AUCTION**

Thurs 7/20** 7-8:00 pm **BOOK GROUP #2 – *Lungfish*** by Meghan Gilliss
Moderators: Bob and Maggie Gill

Sat 7/22** **ITALIAN DINNER WITH "ROCKWEED" BAND**
5:00 pm Social Hour – Appetizers provided
6:00 pm Dinner – Lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread & dessert provided
7:00 pm "Rockweed" performs!
Cost: \$20 per person

Thurs 7/27** **LECTURE SERIES #2 – "Tales from Fifty Years in the Foreign Service - Presidents, Priests, and African Chiefs"**
6:30 pm Dessert and coffee
7:00 pm Lecture by former US Ambassador Pamela White

Mon 7/31** 4:30-5:30 pm **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM – "Ramp It Up!"**
Interactive energy and power program by Mad Science of Maine.
This is not a drop-off program.

NEW! Thurs 8/3 TBD ***Private Event – Hardcastle Celebration***

Sat 8/5** **ANNUAL LOBSTER BAKE – Catered!**
5:00 pm Social Hour – Snacks provided
6:00 pm Dinner – Catered by "Simply Susie" of Harpswell
Dinner choices: Lobster with Steamed Clams or Barbeque Chicken, both with potato, onion, egg, corn on the cob, melted butter, watermelon, and ice cream sundaes.
Child's Plate: Hotdog on roll, bag of chips, carrots/celery sticks with ranch dip, watermelon, ice cream sundae.
Cost: TBD

NEW! Thurs 8/10** **LECTURE SERIES #3 – "Be Waterwise"**
6:30 pm Dessert and coffee
7:00 pm Lecture by Chair Mary Ann Nahf and Member Mary West of the Harpswell Conservation Commission

Fri 8/11 5:00-? pm **CASUAL FRIDAY (AUGUST)** – Social hour (bring an appetizer), lawn games. Bring your own entrée (may use the grill) and a dish to share if you'd like! NO sign up.

NEW! Thurs 8/15** **BOOK GROUP #3** – *The Lowering Days* by Gregory Brown
7-8:00 pm Moderator: Alice Hootsmans

Sat 8/19 4:00 pm **ANNUAL MEETING**
(Proxies will be distributed to membership before 8/5)

Directly Following Meeting! **SOCIAL HOUR, SUMMER PICNIC SUPPER & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
Bring a cold dish or crock pot dish to share! Join us as we celebrate our volunteers with dessert!

Fri 9/8 5:00-? pm **CASUAL FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER)** – Social hour (bring an appetizer), lawn games. Bring your own entrée (may use the grill) and a dish to share if you'd like! NO sign up.

Tues 9/12** 7-8:00 pm **BOOK GROUP #4** – *The Midcoast* by Adam White
Moderator: Bobbi Robertson

Thurs 9/14** **LECTURE SERIES #4** – “A Sail Across the Drake Passage to Antarctica”
6:30 pm Dessert and Coffee
7:00 pm Lecture by OBYC member Max Fletcher

Sat 9/16** **SOUTHERN PULLED PORK DINNER** – Kinsers and Volunteers
5:00 pm Social Hour
6:00 pm Dinner
Cost: \$15 pp; Limited to 80 people.

Thurs 9/21** **LECTURE SERIES #5** – “Mishoonash in Maine: Remnants of Old Native Canoe Travels in the Pejepscot (Brunswick, Topsham and Harpswell) Region”
6:30 pm Dessert and Coffee
7:00 pm Lecture by OBYC member John Goff

Sat 10/7** CHILI AND CHOWDER FALL POTLUCK
 5:00 pm Social Hour
 6:00 pm Bring appetizer, chili, chowder, salad, bread or dessert to share

Sat 12/2 5-7:00 pm **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY** - Bring hearty appetizers, NO sign
 up

In Memoriam

Carolyn N. Welch, who frequently paddled with the OBYC kayakers, died June 3 at age 86.. An avid outdoors enthusiast who led Appalachian Mountain Club trips, she was also chairwoman of the Brunswick Democratic Town Committee.

A memorial will be held at Topsham Grange Hall on Aug. 2.

Board of Directors

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Sue Baker

Board Members:

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Bill Bulkeley

Kym Cournoyer

Tara McCarthy

Andy Rusczek

Bob Seaman

Phil Sumner

Howard Levitan

Newsletter

This is the third newsletter for 2023. 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.

bill.bulkeley@gmail.com,

newsletter@obyc.org