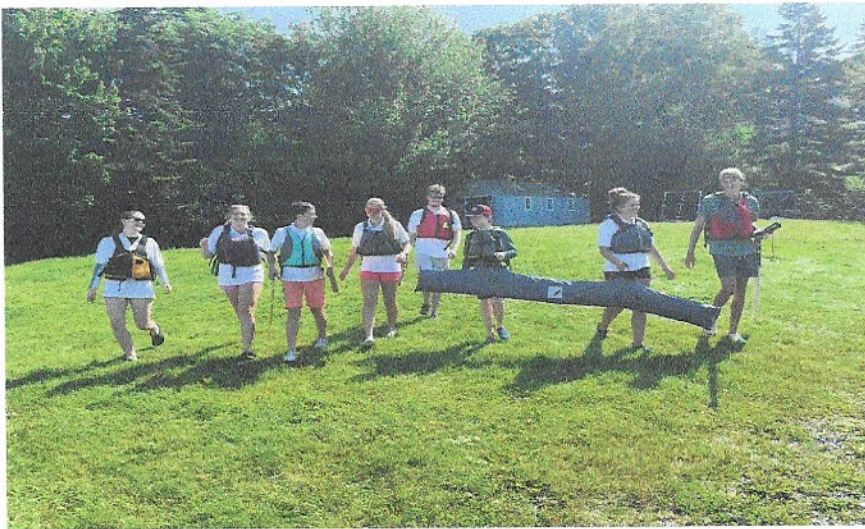




AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER WEEK #1 – July 3-7, 2023

We are back for our 2023 season! Our first week has been quite the week between the fluctuating weather, small class sizes, and many volunteers. Our students have been fortunate to have either one-on-one or close to one-on-one instruction all week!



All of our amazing volunteers are first-season volunteers who are meshing well as a group, and already teaching lessons! Karl is back as an instructor, and we have welcomed our previous volunteer, Chloe, as a first-season instructor. Our volunteers

Elena and Miles will be with us for the first three weeks, and Katherine and Ellis are sticking around for all six weeks. There is a lot to learn and they are all picking it up quickly!

The week started with lots of rain, but fortunately we were still able to get out sailing. The weather finally cleared and we had some light-wind, sunny days, with Friday ending with a beautiful moderate wind. Hopefully the beautiful weather sticks and is a sign for what's to come.



The Beginner class was very small with only four kids. Three of them were completely new to sailing and we were amazed at how quickly they picked it up! Some were even able to sail all three boats, the Optimis, the Rhodes 19, and a 420! We hope to see them all back next year!

Our Intermediate class was filled with seven repeat students from years past. This was a great group of kids who all got along well. It is always nice when we can mix and match partnerships and know that they will get along. A few of them are coming back for a second week and we are seeing racing in the near future for them.

With only our first week down, it seems like we have so much time to enjoy the rest of the summer, but we know it will go by fast! We will be soaking up every bit of it!



And a special thank you to the "Grill Masters", members of the OBYC Sailing Committee for helping make this year's pancake breakfast fundraiser such a huge success! AFSS staff manned the grills inside as well.





AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #2 – July 10-14, 2023



Our second week is done which means we will be moving into the week that will mark the halfway point! It is so crazy how quickly the summer goes by!

It was so nice having a handful of students from last week return this week. We always find it so impressive to see the amount of growth students can make from one week to the next. All new students this week were exciting additions, and the groups of students mixed nicely for a full week of fun. This week our class sizes almost doubled compared to last week which made for some fun activities such as sponge tag and Opti Olympics!

The weather this week was surprisingly similar to last week, with rain on Monday

and then light wind and sun the rest of the week. We even were able to escape potential showers on Friday! Even though there were a couple of days with no wind at all, we were able to continue our lessons on land with a student favorite, "Opti Olympics." "Opti Olympics" consisted of everything from pumping our sails to get around a mark and back, to paddling with sprit poles.

The Beginner class was a nice mix of students who have completed the Beginner class with us in previous years, as well as students who are new to Abbot Fletcher Sailing School. We had kids from ages 8 to 14, and everyone got along great! Our Intermediate class was filled with high energy students who had lots of great skills. It is clear that we have many upcoming racers on our hands! Speaking of racers, our four Racing students have done an amazing job with the start of their program. We will be attending a race at Harraseeket Yacht Club next week, and they definitely will be ready to go.



Looking towards the weekend, we are excited for our annual silent auction! This year it will all be conducted online with a live Zoom feed from 10am to 12pm. Be sure to check out the great items! We greatly appreciate everybody who has donated an item to support our sailing school. Here is the link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86422482925?pwd=eGx3dzB5L2N2UDh2Znc0cVZlZl1B1dz09>



• Week #2 Beginner class



Week #2 Intermediate Class



AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #3 – 7/17/23-7/21/23

AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

Just like that, the season is halfway over! Time really does fly by when you are having fun! We were incredibly fortunate with the weather this week, finally! Most days there was a light to moderate breeze that carried us through the beginner, intermediate, and racing sessions.

The Beginner Class was a mix of students who have sailed with the class in previous years as well as some new students, which is always exciting. They all made huge growth throughout the week and were able to sail the Optis as well as the Rhodes 19. They were able to experience some very light wind as well as some more moderate wind, taking it all in stride and really showing what natural-born sailors they all are.

The Intermediate Class also took off with tremendous capability. By the end of the week, most students were successfully sailing in the 420s! This was a great group of kids who were all enthusiastic about being together and working on their skills.



This week was an exciting week for the Racing Class. Our students were



able to participate in a sailing race at a different yacht club. We traveled to Harraseeket Yacht Club on Wednesday to compete against five other clubs from around the area. There were twenty 420 boats and seven Optis that were all able to participate in five races total. The Head Instructor, Erin, and volunteer, Miles, boated over in the morning with a coach boat and were able to borrow one boat. Even though AFSS came in 18th place out of 20, we had so much fun! For the last two days of the week the group was also able to master the tricky skill of flying a spinnaker!

Sadly, we said goodbye to our volunteers Elena and Miles and very much appreciate their help over the last three weeks. Miles was able to help with both the Beginner and Intermediate classes for the first week, and tried his hand with helping the Racing class during the second and third week. He will be off traveling around Europe for the remainder of the summer. Elena was able to help during the Beginner and Intermediate class for the first week, as well as the Beginner class during the second and third week. She also joined the Racing class and further developed her racing skills.

Elena will be back to school in Florida shortly. We wish them both the best and will miss them as we finish out the season.



BEGINNER CLASS
WEEK #3



INTERMEDIATE CLASS
WEEK #3



RACING CLASS
WEEK #3



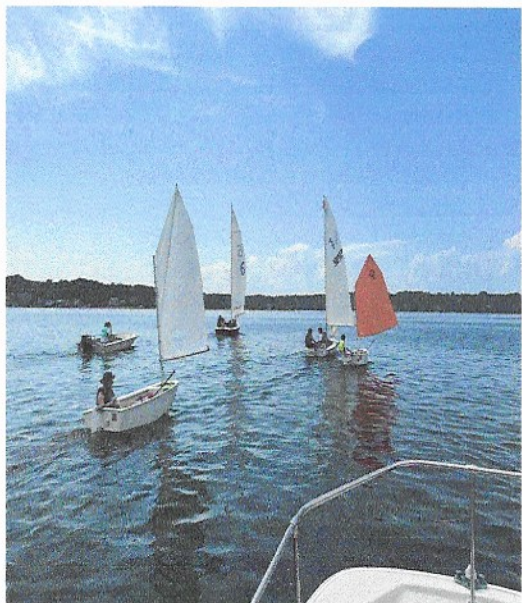
AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #4 – 7/24-7/28/23

AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

We are officially closer to the end of the season than the start of the season! It sure is crazy how time flies! This week has been full of spirit and skill!

The weather has cooperated once again. We had two mornings of moderate wind making it feel almost like a fall day. The Beginners were placed in the Rhodes 19 those days, since for some it was their first true days of sailing. They had a blast sailing up the channel towards Mackerel Cove on the first day, and then down the channel on the second day. The Intermediates handled the wind with grace and we were pleasantly surprised no one capsized on either day! Like I said, there have been lots of good sailing skills shown this week!



With a class of five in the Beginner Class, the teaching ratio was one on one, giving the students great instruction. Overall, this class was younger as a whole, with three 8-year-olds and two 10-year-olds. It was so nice to watch them all get along and enjoy themselves.

The Intermediate Class had nine students strong with personalities that kept our instructors on their toes. The excitement was always palpable, and we know that true friendships were formed this week. These students had the

skills to be able to sail any boat comfortably. Each day we mixed up who would be sailing the Rhodes 19, the 420, and the Optis. We will be recommending many of them for racing next summer!



Finally, we were very happy to welcome our new volunteer, Hazel! After coming to us from another club and completing the racing course last week, she decided she wanted to stay and help out. We welcomed her with open arms! She is polite, kind, and quick to jump in and help, making her the perfect fit for our program!

Beginner Class – Week #4



Intermediate Class – Week #4

Beginners rigging an Opti





AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #5 – 7/31-8/4/23

AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club



With only one more week to go, we have wrapped up week #5! The weather this week was just about perfect. There were beautiful, light winds each morning, which made for wonderful conditions for the Beginners, and each afternoon the winds ranged from light to moderate for the Intermediates. On Friday we had around 15-20 knot winds with a bit of rain here and there, but we were still able to get out sailing! You couldn't ask for a better combination for the week.

Both classes were small this week, with six in the morning and only three in the afternoon. We had all new sailors, except one, in the

Beginner Class which is always exciting. They all worked hard, and we look forward to them coming back next year to further their skills. This week's light wind, but very stiff current made upwind sailing quite tricky. While they weren't able to put their docking practice into play, due to having to be towed back most days, they sure did get lots of practice with keeping a steady course so they didn't get swept backward faster. We are very proud of their progress this week!

Even though there were only three kids in the Intermediate Class, they were full of spirit and adventure! They went and explored way up in Stover's Cove one day, then up past Mackerel Cove another day, and finally down towards the Bowdoin College Sailing Center. They were able to sail all of our boats, which included the Rhodes 19, 420s, and the Optis. They ended up loving the Rhodes 19 the most!

We say goodbye to our wonderful last-minute volunteer, Hazel, as she finishes out her summer before school starts up again. She was an amazing first-time volunteer, jumping at everything to help out. We hope to have her back next season!

As we go into our last week of Sailing School, we are, as always, blown away by how quickly time has sailed by (pun intended)! There are still spots open in both classes so we hope to have more students sign up, but will be very happy with the small classes if not.



Beginner Class



Intermediate Class
Week #5



AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #6 – 8/7-8/11/2023

AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

Here we are at the end of the season already. Just as I wrote in the first newsletter, it would be here as soon as we knew it. What a fantastic summer it has been! Even though with our website issues in the months leading up to the first day, we were able to have good student numbers throughout the summer, even if they were on the small side. Our students really benefited with the student to instructor ratio though!

This week our patience was really tested with the weather. Monday brought us no wind in the morning and some of the lightest wind for the afternoon. Then Tuesday we experienced our first and only full rain day of the season. Both the Beginner and Intermediate classes stayed inside working on their knots, sailing knowledge with review lessons and Jeopardy, learning the nautical flags, and playing games. Then



Wednesday rolled around with the highest winds we have had all season. In the morning, we attempted to sail in the Rhodes 19, but were unable to even get off the dock with the northwest breeze. Luckily, in the afternoon it died down just enough to use the coach boat to help the Rhodes off the dock to go sailing! Finally, Thursday and Friday brought us the weather we have been spoiled with all summer with light to moderate winds and sunny skies.

Our Beginner class was a delight all week. They were flexible and understanding of the crazy weather conditions, and no matter the day, they came to class with smiles on their faces, and jumped right into whatever we had planned. By the time they were able to sail on their own on Thursday and Friday, they were very ready and impressed us with their new skills!

The Intermediate class was just as fun. They were a group that worked well together and had lots of great sailing skills. For the first time this season, the Intermediates stayed in the larger boats instead of sailing Optimis which was a fun switch-up for the end of the season.

We are so grateful for all of the support whether this was your first season with us, or you have been with us for many seasons. It is always a sad day when the instructors put all of the boats away for the year. We hope to see everyone next season, and please spread our name to all of your friends and family!

Staff – Week #6

Erin, Chloe,
Katherine, Karl, Ellis





Beginners - Week #6



Intermediates – Week #6