

Floats Out
Photos
Pg. 2

OBYC

Ledge
Marker
Changing?
Pg. 5

Chowder by
Candlelight
Pg. 4

Happenings

Sailing to
Antarctica
Pg. 6

October, 2023

Commodore's Letter

I have been reflecting on the success of our 2023 season. Our club depends on the collective efforts of our members, and this year over 45% of you participated as volunteers in ensuring the smooth operation of our club.

Whether it was opening the club at the beginning of the season, closing it at the end of the season, maintaining the facilities, enhancing the gardens, supporting students in AFSS, or assisting with social events, our board, committee members, and numerous additional volunteers have done a remarkable job creating a special experience for all 260 members. And so many members DID participate! It is through this involvement and support that our club succeeds.

We will soon be sending out a short survey to all members about the club and your involvement. Please take the time to provide the board the input they need to appropriate resources in alignment with our mission and membership interests.

The board usually meets the second Tuesday of each month, and during the off season - they will be focused on finalizing the budget for 2024, updating policies and procedures for our major committees, working to enhance our online capabilities, and putting together some contingency planning for potential capital
Cont. Pg. 3



Social Events Popular

By Bill Bulkeley

The Orr's Bailey Yacht Club's social season ended with some unexpected ambience as the Chili & Chowder potluck dinner turned into a candlelight sojourn when the power went out.

The 41 people at the event stayed through dessert, although the hosts had to return for clean-up the next day, because the lack of power meant there wasn't any water.

The event ended the Club's active and varied summer social season.

Joyce Duda, Social Committee chair, who is stepping down this year after many years, said that "the summer went very well." She added that she was "very grateful to the social committee members who stepped in" at various events when she was called away by family health issues.

Joyce said that attendance was strong at most events, with 65 people showing up for both the
Cont. pg. 3



Floats Out Crew: Experienced volunteers who helped clear the waterfront included: Dan Gates, Max Fletcher, Nick Nichols, Kym Cournoyer, Chris Nichols, Tom Jackman, Garrett Knight, Paul Cournoyer, Lew Incze, and Dick Stevens.



Photos by Kym Cournoyer and Gail Stevens

Social Recap

Cont. from Pg. 1

welcome back social hour and the Blessing of the Fleet in June.

In July, the Club hosted Family Day for the first time in three years, featuring two 26-person cruises on the Schooner Alert, donated by members Bethany McNelly Davis and Perry Davis.

Later in the month, the club held its first Italian Dinner, catered by The Great Impasta in Brunswick. Originally planned for 80 people, it was expanded to 100 due to demand. The band, Rockweed performed, led by member Chris Nichols.

However, the Lobster Bake — traditionally the highlight of the social season, drew only 75 people. Joyce said “the food was spectacular,” catered by a local woman, but she speculated the cost may have deterred some members.

Later in August, the annual meeting drew 50 people to the in person meeting, but only 19 stayed around for dinner.

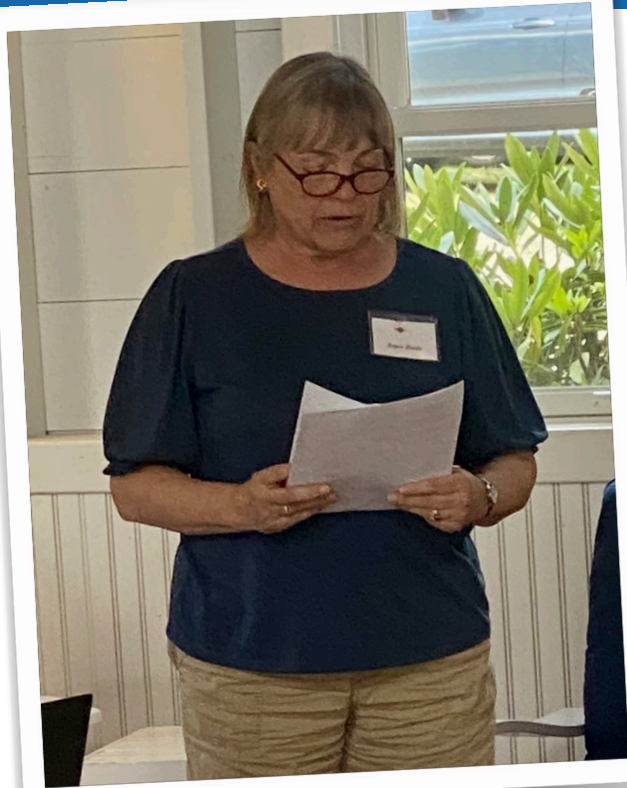
In September, the pulled pork dinner drew 63 people even though its date was advanced a day because of the threat of Hurricane Lee. George and Nancy Kinser, who have run the dinner for many years, stepped back this year (although Nancy still made her barbecue sauce). Instead, each member of the social committee cooked a pork shoulder in a crockpot and brought it to the club for the event.

Still on the schedule: the annual holiday dinner Dec. 2 from 5-7 p.m. Attendees should bring their own drinks and hearty appetizers to share. And remember, the water in the clubhouse is shut off so there aren't any bathrooms.

A variety of other activities occupied the clubhouse during the summer. There were five lectures with attendance ranging from 13 to 38, with Ambassador Pamela White and Drake-Passage sailor Max Fletcher drawing the biggest crowds.

Bridge and Mah Jongg groups met weekly. There were two different morning yoga classes all summer. The book group read four books. Wednesday night bingo was a big draw every week averaging 20 people.

Joyce said the Social Committee was also pleased with interest in the new monthly Casual Fridays which drew 10-20 people to grill their own food and socialize.



Joyce Duda

Commodore's Letter

Cont. from page 1

expenditures that may be needed in the next few years. Your responses to the survey will help inform the board as they take on these efforts.

As we bid farewell to the 2023 summer season, I want to thank you all for your support and the good year we had. Here's to many more!

Liz

CHOWDER & CHILI BY CANDLELIGHT



Ledge Marker To Go?

The U.S. Coast Guard has issued a statement that it is considering eliminating the Cox Ledge Daybeacon 10— the red-triangle marker on a pole just southwest of our mooring field.

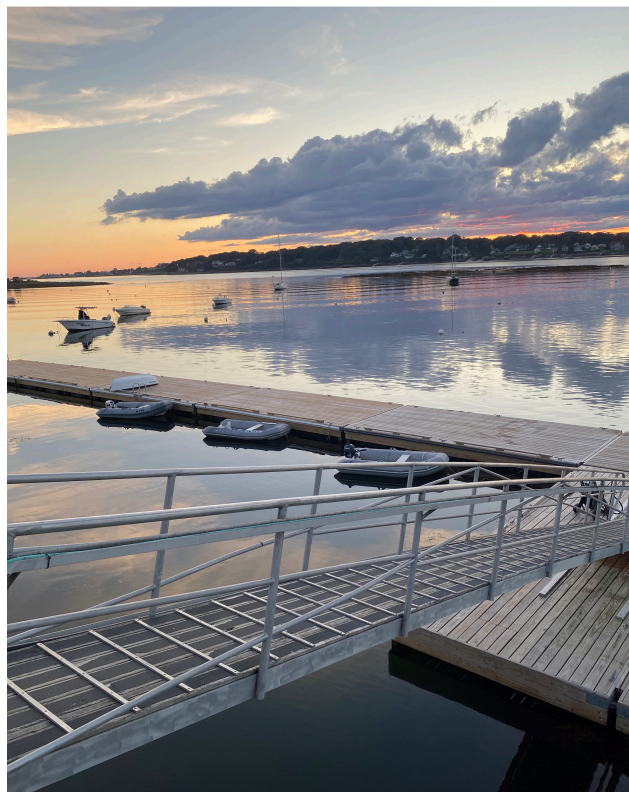
Currently, the marker is somewhat obscured by an osprey nest. Paul Cournoyer, waterfront committee co-chair speculates that the Coast Guard may feel it is unneeded, because the red nun buoy #12, just to the north, provides guidance around the ledge.

Club members with smaller boats may feel the marker is helpful in reminding sailors of the presence of the ledge and a route past it that is usable at high tide.

The Coast Guard seeks comments on the plan from individuals and organizations. Include the size and type of your boat and how you use the marker. It only accepts emails. Refer to Project No. 01-23-082. E-mail can be sent to:

D01-SMB-

DPWPublicComments@uscg.mil.



Cox Ledge

Christmas is Coming

Remember to do your holiday shopping at the OBYC Online Store!

There is a wide selection of items featuring the OBYC logo including apparel and other items. Hats, vests and sweatshirts are always welcome gifts. And no-one ever has enough boat bags.

Check out : www.obyc.org/aboutus/clubstore

Lecture Series Donations

Two members who gave lectures in the Club's lecture series recognized deficiencies in the Club's A-V equipment.

John Goff responded by donating a new GroView LED projector that connects with the current generation of laptops and iPhones and will allow presenters to easily share their slides in the future.

Max Fletcher donated an 8 foot HDMI cable and an LED pointer to improve the presenters' experience, as well as that of the audience.

And for presenters who rely on written notes, Joyce Duda donated a small reading light that clips on to the dais.

Thanks to all!



Dick Stevens listens to Max Fletcher's tales of sailing in Antarctica

Sailing Drake Passage

Max Fletcher engaged 38 listeners with his tale of sailing from Tierra del Fuego to Antarctica, crossing the Drake Passage last December.

Max was sailing in a 50-foot sloop with four other people — only one of whom had any sailing experience. Max found his ship online and flew to Chile just before Christmas. There he and the captain spent two weeks getting supplies for the voyage.

Max, a veteran of round-the-world sailing, said that “until recently very few people sailed to Antarctica,” but it has become more common, and it became a goal for him.

They sailed south in the 30-40 knot winds that are normal in the Screaming Sixties as the latitude is known. It took 5-6 days each way for the 560 mile distance. Temperatures were just above freezing and rose as high as 43 degrees.

Max showed slides of penguins, seals and towering ice bergs. The biggest problem: “there are very few good anchorages.” Even with an anchor and multiple lines tied to rocks on shore, the boat drifted onto a ledge one night. Luckily, they were able to get themselves off. “There’s no Sea Tow,” Max quipped

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Newsletter

This is the sixth and final Newsletter of 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.