

Blessing of
the Fleet
Photos
Pg. 2

OBYC

Social
Calendar
Pg. 5

Sailing School
Pancake Breakfast
Pg 4

Happenings

Artist Lecture
Pg. 7

July, 2024

Commodore's Letter

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the club survey. After the June 15 meeting, I received some additional questions about our long term thinking around our water and ensuring we have a plan ready in the event the existing well and water infrastructure cannot meet the demands of OBYC

As part of our overall capital planning process a small group led by Mark Tubinis is developing a plan that provides an understanding of various scenarios that may occur and what costs the club might incur to remediate any problems should the well fail. The plan will also look at the septic system as part of its comprehensive view.

We have always been conservative with our water and our usage reflects this. OBYC has periodic water testing to determine the current quality of water being drawn from the on-site well. In addition, the club invested in a monitoring system that can also do leak detection and automatic water shut off. This system provides reporting on our water utilization which provides trends to predict our future needs.

Cont. Pg. 3

Member Survey Results Presented

Commodore Liz Incze reported that 55% of members responded to the Board's survey of opinion at a June 15 meeting attended by 40 people as well as 10 people on line.

The fully anonymous Survey Monkey effort didn't turn up any big surprises or areas of dissatisfaction. Most members listed access to the waterfront and the opportunity for social activities as their top reasons for belonging.

The survey revealed some demographic items of interest. Some 40% of respondents had been members for more than 15 years while 24% had joined in the last five year. Half the members are full-time Maine residents.

Just 15% of members don't own a boat. And 15% of those surveyed have children living at home.

Bunny Siegel said that the social committee looked at the survey closely, and combined its results with experience last year in planning summer events. She said about one-third of members wanted more social events and one-third wanted fewer, so the club will keep the same number.

She said paid-for meals such as the pulled-pork

Cont. Pg 3



*Rev. Kitty Babson
delivers the blessing*



Blessing of the Fleet

Photos by Teena Patton



Member Survey

Cont. from Pg.1

Dinner and the Italian dinner are popular. But the Club's signature event, the Lobster Bake, saw sharply reduced attendance last year, presumably due to the \$64 per person price charged by the caterer.

The social committee decided not to hold the Lobster Bake this year, because returning to the all-volunteer cooking model is too risky and the cost of paid servers and cooks is too high.

Bunny also said that the social committee is aware that people don't like to sign up far in advance for events, so only three events require advance sign-up.

Chris Nichols reported on the board's evaluation of the questions about volunteerism. He said 32% of the survey respondents support hiring a staff to work at the club. In another approach, 11% suggested mandating volunteer activities by all members.

Liz said that an ad hoc committee is being formed to consider issues around paid staff, including cost impacts and labor availability.

She noted that the board has a financial planning committee working on a forecast of future capital spending needs. In particular, the finance committee is working on a plan for obtaining and managing fresh water in case our well goes dry or is salinated in the future.

Commodore's Letter

Cont. from Pg. 1

Water is vital to the operations for club functions. It is important that we are prepared for a potential failure of the well to meet our needs for both potable use and non-potable use. The plan will help establish an understanding of how the club should set aside sufficient reserves to assure continuity of water availability and maintenance of the septic system.

We will share information as it gets developed, and please reach out to Mark if you would like to participate.

Liz



Liz Incze, commodore, discusses the member survey. Chris Nichols also spoke.

Sailing School Kicks off with Pancakes!

The Abbot Fletcher Sailing School kicked off its summer season with the traditional Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, June 29.

The school relies on support from two fundraising events: the traditional Pancake breakfast and a silent online auction at <https://givebutter.com/c/afss2024> starting June 22 and extending to midnight July 11. The auction features gift certificates from numerous Bath, Brunswick and Harpswell merchants and restaurants as well as member donations.

Proceeds of the fundraisers are used by the school for operating expenses and replacement of boats, motors and other equipment as needed.



Above: Bob Gill mans the industrial strength mixer with a supporting cast.

Left, above: servers Bobbi Robertson, Martha Jarvis, Jack Evjy, Sheila Evjy, Bruce Langford

Left, below: Helen Kitchel, Liz Rhinehart, John Stoppel, Stuart Wood

Photos by Christina Bulkeley



Social Calendar

Welcome to the 2024 OBYC Social Event Calendar! In addition to the scheduled events listed below, please make use of our wonderful clubhouse/kitchen, deck, grill, picnic tables, and lawn to gather often! Check the listings for any scheduled private events, yoga, lectures, etc. as the indoor facilities may be occupied at those times. All events are BYO beverages.

PLEASE NOTE: For events where sign-up is required, please sign up on the OBYC Web site or on the sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse. If there is a cost for an event, please pay with cash or check prior to, or at the event. Lastly, since pitching in is how OBYC functions, if you can lend a hand, get in touch with the contact person listed below for that particular event.

Weekly events:

July 3 thru Aug 28 Wednesday Bingo – Great fun for all ages! Social/dinner hour begins at 6pm. Bring something to grill for yourself and an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share. Bingo starts promptly at 7pm. For the games, bring a low/no-cost wrapped fun gift for prizes. For questions contact: Teena Patton [Christine.Patton48@yahoo.com]

June 18 thru Sept 10 Tuesday Yoga with Kara Douglas - 7:30 to 8:30 – Please bring your own yoga mat and arrive 10 minutes early to complete paperwork. \$15 per class. For questions contact: Charlie Johnson [charlie-j@outlook.com]

June 21 thru Sept 13 Friday Yoga with Hoa Tran - 7:30 to 8:30 – Please bring your own yoga mat and arrive 10 minutes early to complete paperwork. \$15 per class. For questions contact: Charlie Johnson [charlie-j@outlook.com]

June 25 thru mid-Oct Tuesday Mah Jongg - Come and join our Mah Jongg group for an afternoon of fun. All you need is a 2024 Card. We meet on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 at the club and play until 4:00-4:30. We will start on June 25th and play through mid-October or until it gets too cold. We are always looking for new players and are willing to teach you. For questions contact Linda Kittle at 913-306-2986.

July 1 thru Aug 9 Abbot Fletcher Sailing School is in session.

July 13, Sat, 10 to 3 AFSS Auction - Items will be displayed at the Blessing of the Fleet and the Pancake Breakfast. Bidding can take place at these events and on-line (details regarding on-line bidding will be forthcoming). Final bidding and pick-up will take place this day from 10 to 3.

July 13, Sat, 5-ish “Do-Drop-In” Casual Saturday – This is a DIY event. Bring an appetizer to share. BYO supper too if you want. Join members for sunsets, conversation, and other spontaneous goings on like music jams or cornhole tossing. No sign up, no set up; just show up, but don’t forget to pick up, clean up & lock up. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Margie Rusczek [rusczek@comcast.net]

July 18, Thurs, 7:00pm Book Group – The group will discuss “This Other Eden,” by Paul Harding. For questions contact: Teena Patton [Christine.Patton48@yahoo.com] or Cathy Kelley [ckelley0506@gmail.com]

July 21, Sun, 5pm Sunday S’mores Casual Outdoor Gathering -- Finish your weekend with a sweet treat! Ingredients for s’mores will be provided. No sign up, no set up; just show up, but don’t forget to pick up, clean up & lock up. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Margie Rusczek [ruszczek@comcast.net]

July 27, Sat, 5pm Italian Dinner with Rockweed Band -- 5pm Social hour, appetizers provided. 6pm Lasagna dinner with tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert provided. \$25/person. SIGN-UP REQUIRED. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Martha Tubinis [tubinis@comcast.net]

July 28, Sun Overnight Cruise with OBYC Friends – Cruise you own boat to the nearby anchorage at The Basin to meet up and socialize with friends. For questions contact: Bob Gill [bobgill1946@gmail.com]

Aug 1, Thurs, 6:30pm Lecture series: Joe Goldman presents his 90-minute documentary film: “The Fishermen of Mackerel Cove.” Through a series of interviews with Harpswell fishermen, the film examines the intense engagement with nature, and the independence, freedom, self-reliance of this livelihood central to the town’s heritage. Coffee/tea/dessert gathering at 6:30; Film starts at 7:00pm. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Cathy Kelley [ckelley0506@gmail.com]

Aug 2, Fri, 4:30pm Fun Sailing Race – AFSS Committee presents a fun race open to all. Sail whatever you want—dinghy, sunfish, big boat—no problem as long as it sails!! Surprise musical guests could make an appearance. BYO appetizers and drinks. All spectators welcome! For questions contact: Chris Nichols [nicholodeoncreative@gmail.com] or Bob Gill [bobgill1946@gmail.com]

Aug 10, Sat, 5-ish “Do-Drop-In” Casual Saturday – This is a DIY event. Bring an appetizer to share. BYO supper too if you want. Join members for sunsets, conversation, and other spontaneous goings on like music jams or cornhole tossing. No sign up, no set up; just show up, but don’t forget to pick up, clean up & lock up. For questions contact: Lucy Cook [lucycook56@gmail.com]

Aug 15, Thurs, 7:00pm Book Group – The group will discuss “Home Now: How 6000 Refugees Transformed an American Town” by Cynthia “CB” Anderson. For questions contact: Maggie Gill [maggie.gill55@gmail.com]

Aug 16, Fri Overnight Cruise with OBYC Friends – Cruise you own boat to the nearby anchorage at the Goslings to meet up and socialize with friends. For questions contact: Bob Gill [bobgill1946@gmail.com]

Aug 17, Sat, 4pm Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Picnic – Please come to the annual meeting and then stay, relax to enjoy a picnic supper provided by OBYC. Join in some friendly corn hole competition if you like. There’s a good chance our own OBYC fiddlers will make an appearance! SIGN-UP REQUIRED. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Lucy Cook [lucycook56@gmail.com]

Sept 21, Sat, 5pm Pulled Pork Dinner -- 5pm Social Hour, 6pm Dinner. Enjoy a delicious pulled pork dinner and dessert. \$20/person SIGN-UP REQUIRED. For info contact: Cathy Kelley [ckelley0506@gmail.com]

Oct 5, Sat, 5pm Chili/Chowder Potluck – Bring appetizer, chili, salad, bread, or dessert to share. Sign-up for specific type of dish is requested. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Cathy Kelley [ckelley0506@gmail.com]

Dec 7, Sat, 4pm Annual Holiday Party – Bring a hearty appetizer to share. Please remember the water has been shut off and the fireplace will provide the only heat. For questions and/or if you can help contact: Tim Vail or Joanne Urquhart [jurq.23@gmail.com]



Kate Beck gave a lecture about responding to nature with abstract art. She presented her "Wills Strait" series of painted-on photography.

OBYC Merch Online

The Merchandise Committee is excited to debut a fresh new look on our Club Store site! Log on to see and, of course, order a broad selection of colorful and exciting new apparel and accessories along with longtime favorites.

Show your support to the club and this hardworking committee by stocking up and wearing your OBYC Swag.

Remember to fly your OBYC Burgee! Burgees will be available for purchase at upcoming events.



Members modeling club merchandise.



Jill Olausson scrubs the porch deck while Lee Slap and Frank LoPiccolo repair the road during a June work-party. Photos by Bob Seaman

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Newsletter

This is the third Newsletter of 2024. 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.