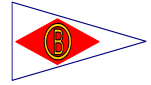




# 2024 AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #1 – 7/1-7/5/24

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



Welcome to the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School season of 2024! I don't think we could have asked for better weather to start off the summer. Each day was sunny, except Friday with fog, and around 75-80 degree temps.



We are so happy to have both Karl Krause and Chloe Filipowicz back as instructors! As for our volunteer instructors this year, we have plenty! There are so many, in fact, that we had to make a schedule so that we didn't have more instructors than students. Elena Rodriguez, Ellis Taylor, Hazel Guillette, and Miles Rimmel are returning volunteers, and we are welcoming Chloe's sister, Claire Filipowicz and Sundari Von Wentzel as first-year volunteers. It is wonderful to have such a large, hard-working crew!

*Photo: Karl & Chloe*



Our beginner class was a lovely even ratio of boys to girls from 8-13 years old. The majority of them sailed more like intermediate students with their ability to pick up skills quickly. They had all the weather to work with, from no wind, to light wind, moderate wind, and fog. Getting that experience early on is key for quick development. Foggy Friday allowed us to play a fun, competitive game of Opti Olympics!

*Photo: Beginner Class with Schooner Alert in background*

The intermediate class was small but mighty. They were game for sailing any boat, and sailed them all well. We were able to go through lessons faster than normal, which meant more time spent on the water. Next week's class is small as well, so pass the word along to friends and family and maybe we can get a few more kids signed up!

*Photo: Intermediate Class in 420's*



Our annual pancake breakfast was a success last weekend, on June 29th. It is always fun to see students before their session begins and beautiful to share good company and yummy pancakes!

The annual silent auction that benefits the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School has been live for bidding and will close on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 pm. Be sure to pass the word along and get in your bids! The link is <https://givebutter.com/c/afss2024>. There are gift certificates for boat cruises, local restaurants, as well as donations from local businesses.

With such a great start to the summer, we look forward to many more weeks!



*Photo: Successful Opti landing!*

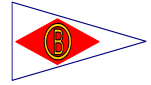




# 2024 AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #2 – 7/8-7/12/24

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



I would like to start off this newsletter with a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual online auction! We managed to raise over \$5,700, and we are so grateful for that!

Another great week in the books! We had more beautiful weather with a bit of fog added throughout the week. Luckily, the fog did not prevent us from going out sailing. It might have kept us from going beyond the edge of the mooring field, but sailing in or out of the field is still sailing!

The Beginner class was another mix of kids ranging from ages 8-14. With only one student repeating another week, the rest of the class was a new group. Some joined us from last year, but a few new kids! They had a range of wind speeds throughout the week, even getting a hand in moderate to high winds. During a couple of those days, we even put *two* kids in the Optis for added weight. This is always fun to watch kids work closely together.

The Intermediate class was able to grow from one student to five students all within a few days of the Monday start time! We even welcomed/promoted two of our first-year Beginners from last week who were going to continue in the Beginner class originally. They were too talented not to be promoted to Intermediates for their second week. Very impressive! All sailors were very adaptable, going from Optis, to the Rhodes, and 420s easily.

In the afternoon we also started our Racing class. Our four students have been working hard and getting ready for their MIRC race at Prout's Neck next week. Three out of four have taken the Racing class with us in the past, so they were able to have a strong base to develop their skills quickly. This week they have been mastering their starts as well as maneuvering around a triangle course. They are looking forward to working more on a windward leeward course next week.

As we move forward with our summer, we are hoping for continued good weather and lots of smiles!







# 2024 AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #3 – 7/15-7/19/24



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

Wow! We have reached the halfway mark of our 2024 AFSS sailing season! If we continue to have the kind of weather we have been experiencing, we will be on track to saying this has been the best summer yet! Even the humidity has broken at the end of the week, and dare I say the wind had an autumn feel to it!



*Beginners*

It is always nice to welcome in a brand-new batch of kids to AFSS, which is what we did in the Beginner class this week. There were a couple of days with more moderate wind, but with some help, they handled it beautifully. We saw some amazing growth out on the water, and hope they all return next year.

*Intermediates*

The Intermediate class was a fun group of boys who all have been sailing at AFSS for several years. This was their first time all together in the same class, and my oh my, was it lively! I was a lot of fun being able to put these kids in any boat, knowing they would be competent. Some are definitely ready for racing.



Our Racing class had a fun week prepping for their MIRC (Maine Interclub Racing Circuit) race at Prout's Neck Yacht Club on Thursday. They did an amazing job with tricky wind conditions, going from no wind, to moderate, and back to little to no wind. Prout's Neck was very organized, welcoming, and fun. They even had a "candy boat" for kids to sail by after the race and get a little sugar boost. They came in 3rd out of 4 places, even beating the homeport club, and we are so very proud of them. They had fun, were able to sail with other kids, and that's what matters most.

*AFSS racing students at Prout's Neck MIRC Regatta*



*Racers with AFSS staff*



Looking ahead, our volunteer Miles will be leaving us for two weeks for an amazing opportunity at Tufts University, so we wish him well and look forward to seeing him again for week 6. Hazel will be joining us for the final 3 weeks so we are excited to get her out on the water with us.

Let the fun continue!

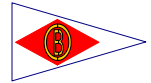






# 2024 AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #4 – 7/22-7/26/24



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

This week seemed to go by a bit slower with the light wind, but that's okay! We have been able to enjoy the time together while it still lasts. Realizing there are only two weeks left to the season is always surprising. There has been more swimming and "King of the Opti" this week than usual, but what else are you going to do when it's warm with barely any breeze? Luckily, Friday was able to give us a beautiful breeze all day!

Our Beginner class (*right*) was another small group of only five, but what sweet, hard-working, positive kids they were! Due to the lack of breeze during much of the week, we were not able to sail as far or as often, but that did not dampen their spirits! They all played so well together during the Opti Olympics and King of the Opti; it was a delight to watch.



The Intermediate class (*left*) was a class to remember! With a group of three siblings, one instructor and student sibling pair, and most of these kids having grown up together here at AFSS, the whole class felt like one big family. Sometimes that meant being loving to one another, and sometimes not quite as loving. In the end, they had a great week with lots of memories. We were even able to have our first obstacle course on the water all season!





*Beginners learning to rig Optimis*



*Beginners on Rhodes 19 with instructor Karl*



*Intermediates sailing Rhodes 19 & a 420*

This week we are saying goodbye to two volunteers, Claire Filipowicz and Elena Rodriguez. They have both been great assets to the team, and we wish them well for the rest of their summer.







# 2024 AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #5 – 7/29-8/2/24



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

Week five is complete, and we are headed into our last week already! This week we had a mix of sun, clouds, and mist with light wind to moderate wind. We had a great group of students in both our Beginner and Intermediate classes, with many of these students joining us for our last week as well. Having students complete two weeks is great because they are really able to hone their skills in week two. It is so rewarding to watch things 'click' for them.



The Beginner class was able to have steady, light winds almost all week. With these consistent light speeds, they are able to feel more comfortable making mistakes on the water, without the added stress and sometimes consequences that heavier winds bring. Everyone knows that mistakes make you better, and because of that we saw all of these kids grow so much this week!



The Intermediate class was our largest Intermediate class this season, with nine students! This was also our oldest class with most kids ranging from ages 13 to 18! They were all very skilled sailors, and we would love to see the majority of them in Racing next year. The 420s were used a ton this week, as it was a favorite boat for all.







On a more technical note, we were able to purchase two brand new much-needed motors for our well-loved coach boats! This week, the second one was installed, so hopefully there will be no more issues for quite some time! Safety is absolutely paramount with sailing and being able to get to situations that require immediate attention out on the water makes the sailing experience much safer.

*Erin shows off our two new motors*

*Our staff celebrates “Dress Like Erin” Day*



We say goodbye to another of our Volunteers, Ellis Taylor.

We wish her well and hope she enjoys the remainder of her summer.





# 2024 AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #6 – 8/5-8/9/24



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

It truly is amazing just how fast the time goes by when you are having fun! Our season here at the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School has come to a close. and I don't think we could have asked for a more perfect, smoother summer. We were incredibly blessed with our weather all season, but, of course, our worst day had to be the last. Even so, we had fun playing games together, and we were able to all get out sailing at least for a little bit! Our instructors and volunteers meshed well and worked together like a well-oiled machine all season long. The many laughs and smiles from the instructors and students will be missed until next summer!



Our Beginner class was a group of brand-new sailors, and wow, did they pick up the skills quickly! They were amazing to watch out on the water as they took their lessons and immediately applied them. It was so fun to listen to them, helping each other by giving tips and communicating well on the water. The winds might have been light all week, but it didn't get them down and they began to master their light wind sailing.

*Beginner Class*

*Intermediate Class*

The Intermediate class was most of the same students as last week plus two students who moved up from the Beginner class! This class impressed us as well with their knowledge, and even the newly appointed Intermediates flawlessly fit in. This was even the only group this summer that was able to learn backward sailing! They were so skilled in demonstrating their man overboard drill and the light winds allowed for safe backward sailing. It sure was fun to watch!





In other news, I have a bittersweet announcement to make. I have decided that this season will be my last season as the head instructor of the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School. It is time that I pass the torch as I move into the next phase of my life. It has been an absolute honor being a part of such a special place, and watching kids grow in their love of sailing and in their lives. I will be forever grateful for all of the support, kindness, and encouragement I have received over the past 13 years working as an instructor here. I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

Thank you. Erin Deschesne





*Our wonderful staff (L-R): Instructor Karl Kreuze; Volunteers Hazel Gillette, Sundari Von Wentzel, Claire Filipowicz; Instructor Chloe Filipowicz; Head Instructor Erin Deschesne*

