

Italian
Dinner
photos
Pg. 2

OBYC

Oldest Car to
ever visit
club
Pg. 4

Abbot Fletcher at
helm of Majek
Pg 3

Happenings

Filmmaker
Lecture
Pg. 6

August, 2024

Commodore's Letter

We are in the throes of another great season at OBYC, and it is fun to reflect on all the activities that have engaged many of us. Even just rocking in a chair on the porch, listening to the laughter of the children in the sailing school, watching the cool evening descend on the sound, or chatting with a friend has been popular. We are indeed fortunate to have all this available to us.

I am looking forward to our annual meeting and the member appreciation picnic which follows. The club provides the food and the rest is BYOB. (Please remember to sign up so we can plan the food). This year's meeting will be important as we gather and discuss our plans for the future. Your continued support and engagement are important as we chart the course for the next chapter of our clubs journey.

Thank you for all you do. I look forward to a good turnout at the meeting and picnic both on August 17 at 4 pm.

Best,
Liz

Who Was Abbot Fletcher?

The namesake of OBYC's sailing school, Abbot Fletcher was a noted sailor, an adventurer who reached the South Pole, and a top boat builder at Bath Iron Works who oversaw the construction of the first of its famous Arleigh Burke class destroyers.

The father of club members Max and Kristin Fletcher and Judy Woodbury, Abbot died in 1999 at age 77. He had just been elected Commodore but barely had time to serve before dying of cancer.

A long-time enthusiast for sharing the craft and joy of sailing, he had served as coach of the Bowdoin College sailing team during the 1990's. Kristin recalls that he had often advocated a youth sailing program for the club, so after his death the club named the school for him.

Abbot Fletcher was most celebrated for his ocean sailing accomplishments. "His boat Majek dominated the Gulf of Maine Racing Circuit" according to Sandy Marsters, founder of Points East, a sailing magazine.

According to a memoir Abbot wrote for Points East, Majek (named for the first initials of the five members of his immediate family), participated in 230 races with more than 80 first place finishes. The 38-foot sloop won its class in 11 of 32 Monhegan-Manana Races,

Cont. Pg. 3



Margie Rusczek, Martha Tubinis and Mark Tubinis plate the lasagna.

Italian Dinner

Chris Nichols and Rockweed had the crowd dancing.



Abbot Fletcher

Cont. from Pg. 1 Further to sea, it took a first-in-fleet in the Marion-Bermuda race in 1997, along with finishing third in the fleet two other times. It also came in fifth in the fleet in a Marblehead to Halifax race.

In his Maine sailing, much of the time his crew included his three children, who also were responsible for sailing Majek to whatever yacht club was the origin point for that weekend's race.

Abbot came by his sea legs naturally. Kristin says there are six admirals in the family tree. He grew up in Rhode Island, but he and his siblings spent summers with his grandfather who had a house on Orr's Island. His grandfather, a retired rear admiral, also had a sailboat and taught Abbot to sail.

After serving in the Navy in WWII, and completing his studies at MIT, Abbot lived and worked in New Jersey. But he started coming back to Maine and in 1953 joined Bath Iron Works.

He had a 39 year career there, managing various ship projects. He was very active in the civic life of Bath, chairing the school board and heading a mental health association.

He also found time to go off on various adventures, including getting to the South Pole, where he was photographed standing on his head, because he was "holding up the world". He also cruised around Greenland and Baffin Island.

In a celebration of Abbot's sailing life, Max recalled his father's constant drive for performance. In a Marion-to-Bermuda race during a night watch in roaring winds when Max and Judy were preparing to put a third reef in the mainsail, Abbot came on deck, looked around and said, "Hadn't we ought to get some more canvas on her?"



One of America's Oldest Cars at the Club

You never know what sorts of vehicles will show up in the club parking lot.

The evening of the Italian Dinner, club-member Barry Stewart showed off his 1902 Rambler. One of the first 250 built at a factory in Kenosha, WI, it is one of only 50 still around and it is among the oldest cars in America. Rambler was the second production car made in America, following the 1901 Oldsmobile..

Barry says his father restored it while Barry was in high school. His father also restored and left him a Model-T Ford.

Both antique cars are normally on display at the Boothbay Railway Village Museum. But Barry likes to take the Model-T out some days during the summer. It is still operational.

He brought the Rambler out of the museum because he is taking it to a Model-T restorer in Vassalboro in hopes of getting the engine running again.



The right-hand drive vehicle originally had a tiller, but that was replaced by the steering wheel.

Its one-cylinder motor, placed under the seat, produced about 6 hp. One of Rambler's early innovations was equipping production cars with a spare tire so operators didn't have to learn to patch tires when they went flat.

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.

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 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]



Documentary filmmaker Joe Goldman discusses his film “Lobstermen of Mackerel Cove.” Joe, now 70 started his project in 1983. Lobstermen still made and repaired wooden traps, and one fished from a dory. He finished filming around 1990, and since then has returned to the project to edit it, digitize it and try to figure out a way to show it. Member Kathy Kelly arranged the showing and about 50 members and guests packed the clubhouse.

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.



Gas Receipt Etiquette

Sue Baker, treasurer, reminded boaters that when completing the gas slip they need to put the date, member name, the number of gallons and the pump price on the slip. Take the original copy with you and leave carbon copy in the book; please do not leave both copies in the sales book. And be sure that the cardboard slip is placed below the slip you are writing on so that the next slip doesn't repeat your purchase information!

Board of Directors

Commodore

Liz Incze

Vice Commodore

Andy Ruszcek

Treasurer

Sue Baker

Secretary

Dawn Kalmar

Board Members

Bunny Siegel

Tara McCarthy

Bob Seaman

Phil Sumner

Howard Levitan

Janice Skillings-Goff

Diana Kenyon

Lee McIlvaine

Chris Nichols

Newsletter

This is the fourth 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.