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# OBYC

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Deschene  
retires  
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## Happenings

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October 2024

### Commodore's Letter

As the 2024 season comes to a close and I reflect on our summer, a few organizational highlights come to mind. One is our membership survey and resulting discussion at the annual meeting. The enthusiasm met our hopes for the meeting and the ideas are important.

Another highlight is the transfer and upgrading of financial record-keeping to QuickBooks. QuickBooks has allowed us to streamline reporting for the board and committee chairs and facilitates year over year comparisons in multiple ways. An added benefit is that club dues and AFSS tuition can now be paid online.

We've had healthy participation in work parties, such as for opening and closing the clubhouse and waterfront. Recently we had nearly 20 members volunteer at the Harpswell "Lunch with Friends" October event.

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## 25 Events Mark Social Season

During the summer of 2024, OBYC held 25 separate events with the year-end holiday party still to come, said Cathy Kelley, speaking for the social committee. The eight-person social committee focused on creating a variety of different types of activities to enhance the club experience for members, Cathy said.

Many events matched 2023 attendance. Dozens of club members volunteered at individual events. Attendance overall remained below pre-Covid levels at most club social events.

Cathy said the committee is eager to hear from members about ideas for lectures or book-group readings and other social activities.

The most popular social event was the Italian Dinner which drew 90 people. There were 70 people at the pulled-pork dinner and 50 or so at most other events such as the chili-chowder potluck this month and the blessing of the fleet.

*Cont. Pg. 3*





## Chili/Chowder Potluck

More than 50 members enjoyed 10 soups and chilis, four appetizers and six desserts. Above left, Martha Tubinis, Margie Ruszcek and Bobbi Robertson cleaning up. Above, Doug Woodbury and Joanne Urquhart. Left, Malcolm McFarland and Rick Patton. Below Joy Duffy (guest) and Pat Kaufmann. Photos by Teena Patton and Cathy Kelley



## Commodore's Letter

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

We are fortunate to have a membership waiting list of over 30 people. I look forward to meeting them when their sponsors bring them to the club while they await an opening. Sponsors – take note. We would really like to see these people at the club.

With the docks now pulled and winter setting in, the board is gearing up for a busy few months ahead. We will be focusing on budget planning and longer-term strategic issues concerning some of the challenges that lie ahead. Discussions will center around feedback from the survey and ensuring that the club remains a vibrant hub for all.

I remind you that board meetings are open to all members – we meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, at 6 pm. If you would like to join a meeting via Zoom, please reach out to me and I will make sure you get the link.

And don't forget – for those of you in Maine in early December, the Annual Holiday Party will be December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. I hope to see you there.

*Liz Incze, Commodore*

## Social Events Reviewed

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

While we have had crowds of 150 or more attend the annual lobster bake in the past, the social committee canceled the event this year after evaluating feedback from members about costs and caterers' expensive proposals.

The club hosted two lectures this summer. One of them, a movie-showing and discussion by filmmaker Joe Goldman about his documentary about local lobster catchers, drew 70 people, including some of the characters featured on celluloid.

Newly promoted casual Friday and Saturday evening gatherings drew 7-12 people each time she said. Weekly activities such as yoga and mahjongg "have fallen off in attendance" compared to past years, she added.

A weekend cruise in July attracted eight boats of club members. A planned successor in August was cancelled due to bad weather.



*Members volunteered to help Harpswell Aging At Home luncheon.  
volunteer-run since 1955 • [www.obyc.org](http://www.obyc.org) Page 3*





Erin Deschene was given a plaque by the club in honor of her seven years leading the sailing school as head instructor.

## *35 Volunteers Helped Sailing School*

The Abbot Fletcher Sailing School achieved better-than breakeven results this summer assisted by some generous donations. Operating revenue totaled over \$31,500. In addition, a very successful online auction raised \$5,700 which goes into the school's capital reserve for replacing major equipment.

Erin Deschene is retiring as Head Instructor after seven years of leading the program and guiding young sailors through fog, high winds, calm breezes and Covid. She began her instructor career as a junior instructor in 2009. The school is searching for a successor.

The grateful club presented her with a framed print of her cherished boat (a Marshall Cat) with a bronze plaque recognizing her service.

At the annual meeting in August, Lew Incze, speaking for the sailing school's Executive Committee, reported the school served 63 students this summer, a modest decline

from past years. Of the total, 21 were children or grandchildren of OBYC members.

The remainder were from the surrounding area, illustrating the role that the school plays in club service to the community. Further evidence of that role came from 34 local businesses that donated gift certificates to the online auction.

The school spent \$12,200 from its \$26,000 reserve account to buy two new outboard engines for the chase boats. Lew reported that many boats and engines are at the end of their useful life, despite annual work parties of sailing committee members to patch and repair them. Lew said the reserve fund is sufficient to handle some needed replacements in the sailing fleet.

Some 35 club members volunteered their time and efforts in various projects for AFSS this year, he said.

# OBYC Merch Online

The Merchandise Committee reminds members that OBYC clothing and other goods make great Christmas gifts. 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.



## Final Social Event

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]

## Board of Directors

Commodore

Liz Incze

Vice Commodore

Andy Ruzscek

Treasurer

Sue Baker

Secretary

Dawn Kalmar

Board Members

Bunny Siegel

Tara McCarthy

Bob Seaman

Phil Sumner

Howard Levitan

Janice Skillings-Goff

Teena Patton

Lee McIlvaine

Chris Nichols

## Newsletter

This is the sixth and final 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.