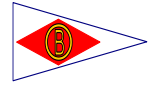




AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #1 – 6/30/25-7/4/25

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



Welcome to the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School 2025 season! My name is Pete Worthington, and I am taking the helm of the program from Erin Deschesne. The transition is a process, but I am happy to report that things are going smoothly. Many of you may know that I was the head instructor here over 30 years ago. So much has changed, but the constant is the passion and the support for this important program. The Sailing Committee, the instructors and volunteers, and the club members and guests are 100% behind this program's success. It's great to be back!

We are happy to have Chloe Filipowicz back as instructor and have added Elena Rodriguez as our second instructor. Our volunteers currently are Ellis Taylor and Claire Filipowicz. I feel very fortunate to have such home-grown talent. They work excellently as a team and have solid sailing experience and excellent interpersonal skills. Thanks go to Erin and the strong program she has built. My goal is to build on her accomplishments and keep the core of the program strong.



Beginner Students – Week #1

Our morning Beginner class had mostly girls from the ages of 8-12. We had two younger “true beginners” who underwent exponential growth. Some of the more challenging experiences was getting out “of irons” or being stuck with bow facing into the wind with luffing sails. One student referred to the sails as laughing, not luffing. We had a good mix of weather with some light wind sailing, some morning fog and a morning where the wind was well over 15 knots and we spent the day in the classroom and outside doing activities, including a compass course with 4 marks. We mostly sailed in our single crew Opti's but also got the entire class into the Rhodes19 where all students got to steer, handle the mainsheet and the leeward jib sheet.



Intermediate Students – Week #1

Our afternoon Intermediate class was small but very cohesive. All were solid sailors who were challenged on more difficult tasks on the 420 sailboats. The 420's are two-person boats that are very popular on the college and professional racing circuit. They are fast and lively. We also had a great mix of wind and did some solid sailing in heavier winds, practicing de-powering our sail trim and optimal body position. One crew capsized twice on our last day and did an excellent job recovering in heavier wind and sea state. The lighter air sailing was also challenging and we learned new methods to move the boats by making our own apparent wind and by rolling the boat sideways to gain forward forces from the centerboard and rudder. These are all great skills to lead us to more advanced “roll tacking”.

Our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser was a huge success on July 5th. Thanks for all your support. The annual auction that benefits the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School has been live for bidding and will close July 10th. There is still time to check it out at <https://givebutter.com/c/afss2025>

Lastly, the AFSS is in need of some compasses and old charts—anything to do with navigation. These are great activities on rainy days. Compasses could be hand held or small binnacle. See what you have laying around and drop it off at the school. Thanks.

Once again, I would like to thank Erin Deschesne for her support during this transition. Having her as the monitor for the sailing school the first week was invaluable!



Pancake Cooks



Thank you to parents who shared the photos on this page with us. We love to see the happy faces on our students. Please feel free to email photos to stbaker42@comcast.net.