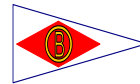




# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #2 – 7/7/25-7/11/25

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



Our second week at Abbot Fletcher Sailing School was super. We got on the water each day. The wind was mostly light, but it made for excellent Beginner sailing in the morning.



Our Beginner class had a great mix of students from ages 8 to 12 with students from across the country and England. They worked well together and had much fun. Sailing alone in an Opti sailboat as a Beginner can be quite a challenge. Our instructors deliver a curriculum that helps them build confidence in steering, balance and awareness of the wind and current. The tides and wind-driven current create an experience where students get excellent practice at skippering in a changing environment. Many of the returning Beginners get the opportunity to advance their skills and increase their understanding of this excellent sport. Sailing. They also became quite proficient at knot tying. Square knots and figure eights were primary, and the bowline know was introduced and practiced.

The Intermediate class also got the water every day. The 420's are a two-person boat with one helms-person and one crew who sheets and trims the jib and provides balance. The 420's are very lively with their rounded hulls. All students had the opportunity to advance their skill set with focus on wind direction and sailing positions. Trimming sails is both an art and a science, especially in light wind. Fortunately, there were some afternoons with some decent wind (8-10 knots) where they had to work on sail position, trim, and boat balance. The helms-person's ability to tack (turn upwind) or jibe (turn downwind) where they had to work on sail position, trim, and boat balance. The helms-person's ability to tack (turn upwind) or jibe (turn downwind) is a challenge to perform smoothly. Handling the tiller and the main sheet simultaneously and switching sides of the boat is a skill that needs constant development. This afternoon group performed well and had a lot of fun while doing it.





Our two Racing students had two coaches and sometimes three working on more advanced sail trim and tacking and jibing maneuvers. They practiced a lot of starting line tactics and buoy rounding, and we covered many right-of-way rules that are encountered during racing. On Wednesday we went to a race at Peaks Island along with four other clubs. We borrowed a boat and were able to do four races with a total of ten 420's. Our team did wonderfully, improving each race. It was light wind and challenging, but the races were low key and not high stakes. A very relaxed atmosphere with other clubs in the area. Thanks go to one set of parents who provided transportation by boat to the event. A Great Week! Thanks for all the support!



A huge thank you to all parents who supported the Online Silent Auction. The AFSS Executive Committee reports that \$8,500 was raised which will be used for acquisition of boats and equipment when the need arises.