



# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #6 - 8/4-8/8/25

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

Our sixth and final week at Abbot Fletcher Sailing School brought in more fine weather. We were out on the water every day in both AM and PM programs. Both classes had nearly a dozen students. Fortunately, we had a volunteer from previous years step in to give us assistance the last week. I'm amazed that we have had no rain-days the entire summer. We did have one fog day and one high-wind day in the early weeks.



In the Beginner class we had eight boys and three girls. It was quite a mix of personalities and skill sets. Early in the week we relied on using the Rhodes 19 keel boat as a back-up for training so that we could personalize the instruction in the single handed OPTI's. This worked well, rotating students in and out of the Rhodes. Most students enjoy skippering and being crew on the Rhodes 19. Most all students became confident enough to skipper their own boats across Merriconeag Sound in varying conditions. Our typical navigational goals were to exit the OBYC

mooring field, round the red nun navigational buoy and head for the green can buoy across the sound at Stover's Point. These experiences had varying wind speeds and directions and tidal currents. A challenging environment for our young skippers! We occasionally had to tow the boats back into the anchorage. Overall, the instructors were all happy with the outcome.

In the Intermediate class we had students ranging from 8 to 15 and coming from three foreign countries. It was quite a mix. In this case our 8-year-old was in his third week and his skill set was advancing at such a pace that he adapted well to the larger 2-3 person 420 sailboats. The 420 is 420 cm long which translates to nearly 14 feet. It's a popular boat on high-school and college sailing programs. We mixed up the students throughout the week and worked on upwind sailing and sail trim. In heavier winds they needed to work acutely on balancing the boat's crew to limit the heel (tilting sideways) of the boats. These boats are designed to sail fastest at minimal heel. Many students are happy about that! This Intermediate class bonded very well and met all of the challenges that the instructors, and Mother Nature, set up for them!



It's been a great summer at AFSS. I have met such wonderful people, students, parents, and have been fortunate to have such an excellent coaching staff, AFSS committee support and volunteer base from OBYC members. There were four young families in the program that I had taught their parents sailing at OBYC over thirty years ago. This certainly made this summer extra special. I hope to see you all next summer.  
*– Pete Worthington*



#### OUR 2025 STAFF



*Chloe*



*Elena*



*Claire*



*Ellis*



*Sundari*



*Katherine*