



OBYC

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Commodore's Letter

As my time as Commodore comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Serving as Commodore has been an honor and a deeply rewarding experience, made possible by your dedication, camaraderie and ongoing support.

We've celebrated a few milestones along the way. We introduced online billing for dues, and we will be working to expend that for AFSS and social events in the near future. We surveyed membership about what was important for the future, while appreciating the wonderful mix of ages, families, boaters and social members. Your collective input helped the board as they worked through priorities.

Your major committees are making sure all the club procedures and "usual" activities that are required for the club to run smoothly are documented. In many cases, volunteers have been recruited to help share the load. And most recently we hired a bookkeeper to assist us with managing our financial affairs.

We hosted our first regatta in years, and we look forward to continuing that in the future. Our sailing school is thriving.

I finish my time in office feeling optimistic about the club. Thank you all for making this journey so memorable and fulfilling.

Liz

Club To Hold Annual Meeting Saturday

By Bill Bulkeley

The club will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Aug. 16 at 4 p.m. at the clubhouse. Members will vote on four members for the board and hear reports from various committees.

All members received meeting materials by email with instructions to print out ballots and mail them to the club if the member couldn't attend the meeting in person. All mailed ballots must be received by Wednesday August. 13.

The meeting agenda includes a discussion led by outgoing Commodore Liz Incze of how the board has used its recent member survey to prioritize club goals.

Outgoing treasurer Sue Baker will present the financial report.

The board of directors will elect a new Commodore at a meeting after the full members meeting is adjourned.

The annual meeting will be followed by a social hour and picnic supper. The club will provide sandwiches, salads and non-alcoholic beverages. The social committee requests that members planning to attend the picnic should sign up online or at the clubhouse so they know what to purchase.



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AFSS Racing team

Racing Instructor Elena Rodriguez, Cabot Johnson, Sayles Theischer (granddaughter of Tom & Cathy Nicholson), Kai Rodriguez, Charlie Gray

InterClub Regatta

For the first time in many years the club and Abbot Fletcher Sailing School hosted a four-club regatta for young sailors on July 30. (Photos by Lew Incze)





Scenes from an Italian Dinner

78 members and guests enjoyed pasta and dessert and classic rock 'n' roll at the club's popular Italian Dinner.

(Above) Chris Nichols performs. Margie Ruszcek, Bunny Siegel and Martha Tubinis. (Right) Naila Young, Talia Ruszcek and Silas Ruszcek saved room for cannolis. (Below) Jasper White added his fiddle to the band. (Photos by Liz Incze)



2025 OBYC SOCIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome to the 2025 OBYC Social Event Calendar! In addition to the social events listed below, please make use of our wonderful facilities to gather at times other than the scheduled events. Remember all events on the calendar are BYO beverages.

The Social Committee would like to encourage informal gatherings on Friday nights. We'd like to continue impromptu socializing on the porch as we tried last summer with the "Do-Drop-In" casual events. These are do-it-yourself events.

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.

June 30 thru Aug 8 Abbot Fletcher Sailing School is in session 9 am to 4 pm

Tuesdays — July 1-Sept. 16. 7:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga with Kara Douglas. \$15 per class for members and guests.

Aug. 13, Wed, 5:30pm Bingo - Great fun for all ages! Social/dinner hour begins at 5:30pm. 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]

Aug 14, Thurs, 7:00pm Book Group – The group will discuss "Moirá's Crossing" by Christina Shea. For questions contact: Alice Hootsmans [alicehootsmans@gmail.com]

Aug 17/18, Sun/Mon Overnight Cruise with OBYC Friends – Cruise your own boat to a nearby anchorage to meet up at 5 pm and socialize with friends. Anchorages will be announced at a later date. For questions contact: Chris Nichols [nicholodeoncreative@gmail.com]

Aug 16, Sat, 4pm Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Picnic – Please come to the annual meeting and stay afterwards to relax and enjoy a picnic supper provided by OBYC. This is a members-only event. Please sign up if you are planning to stay so we can do our food planning. For questions contact: Margie Rusczek [rusczek@comcast.net]

Sept 13, 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: Lucy Cook [lucycook56@gmail.com]

Sept 27, 7am-10pm Kitchel private family event.

Oct 4, Sat, 5pm Pulled Pork Dinner -- 5pm Social Hour, 6pm Dinner. Enjoy a delicious pulled pork dinner and dessert. \$15/person **SIGN-UP REQUIRED.** For info contact: Lynn Knight [Lynnknight@oldecove.com]

Dec 6, 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]



Merchandise committee members Ellen McCroskery, Julie Obreiter and Lynnie Bruce showing off club merch.

Online auction sets record

More than 50 OBYC members and friends of our sailing school bid generously on the 79 items that were offered in the AFSS auction, raising almost \$8,500.

These funds will help the school continue its core mission of more than 20 years: instilling a love of sailing and an appreciation of the Maine coast in a fun and safe environment.

Some of the headliner auction items included a sail with Erin Deschesne, kayak lessons, tickets to West Side Story, Persian carpets, designer lamps, and boating trips on the Alert and Westwind.

Thirty-five gift cards were donated by local merchants, many of whom told us 'what a great cause, we're happy to support it.' Please patronize them, and when you do, thank them for their generosity.

Several folks made direct donations to the school, and several OBYC members donated gift cards and high-quality merchandise. The sailing committee said, "Thank you all for your generosity!"

Weekly Mahjong Games

Some club members gather every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 4 to play the ancient Chinese game of Mahjong.

Linda Kittle, who spearheads the activity can answer any questions. If you want to learn to play, contact her to arrange a time to learn the basics of the game. Linda's contact information is in the club members directory.

Author Discusses Slavery and Mainers' Roles

Carol Gardener, an Alna, Maine, historian discussed the complex relationship of Maine and slavery in the pre-Civil War period. She has written a book called "Divided North: Abolition, Slavery and the Slave Trade in Maine."

Her book is a dual biography of two Portland citizens — Reuben Ruby, a black hack driver who became a leading abolitionist and Nathanael Gordon, a ship's captain who transported slaves from Africa. Gardener says that based on her research, Ruby and Gordon probably went to school together and they were both members of the Second Congregational church, although Ruby would have been forced to sit in the balcony.

Maine, as part of Massachusetts, had abolished slavery in 1776. Maine courts protected fleeing slaves from the fugitive slave act. But ship owners' trade ties with the South and the Caribbean made some Mainers hostile to abolition.

The Gordon family ignored U.S. laws prohibiting use of American ships in the slave trade. Nathanael Gordon III, a slave ship captain, was captured in the Congo by the U.S. Navy. He was hung after a trial in New York City in 1860.

"Ruby and the Gordons demonstrate the divisions of the country," Gardener said during her lecture.



Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

Officers

Commodore — Liz Incze
 Vice Commodore — Andy Ruzscek
 Secretary — Dawn Kalmar
 Treasurer — Sue Baker

Directors

Bunny Siegel
 Tara McCarthy
 Bob Seaman
 Phil Sumner
 Howard Levitan
 Janice Skillings-Goff
 Teena Patton
 Lee McIlvaine
 Chris Nichols

Club Newsletter

OBYC Happenings comes out monthly from May to October.

Member contributions and photos are always welcome. Bill Bulkeley is the editor. Reachable at bill.bulkeley@gmail.com.