

OBYC

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Commodore's Letter

And just like that, it's next season already!

I hope all of you had an enjoyable Holiday and Winter Season and that you're ready to turn your attention now to having fun on the waters of beautiful Casco Bay again. Just looking at the Committee work that's starting to ramp up now, it's clear that the OBYC is getting itself in good shape to serve its membership.

Upcoming events that move us in that direction include the pre-opening Work Party on May 2nd and the Floats-In date of May 13th. If you're available to help on the 2nd, then please plan to be at the Club from 9-12:00AM to both help open the Clubhouse and get the waterfront prepped for the launching of the floats. Always a good time, a great glad-to-meet-you opportunity, and with a nice little spread put on afterwards for the volunteer helpers by the Waterfront & Anchorage and Building & Grounds Committees.

Over the Winter, we've spent a considerable amount of time developing a plan to upgrade the security of our website and related e-communications. We will be implementing the changes that have been recommended to us in the May timeframe. For the most part, these changes will not really be noticed by the membership as they operate, primarily, in the background. But if you do find that a step or two has been added to your Club website access, then know that it has been instituted to improve website and email security. *Cont. Pg. 2*

Floats In May 13

By Ed Kenyon

OBYC floats will be placed in the water Wednesday May 13, when a giant crane will set up in the Club driveway to lift the floats into the harbor one by one.

A professional crew from Redfish Marine will handle the work, aided by a small group of experienced club members. The Waterfront committee requests that members avoid the clubhouse that morning to clear access for the crane and the operating crew.

Volunteers, led by the Waterfront committee will ready the clubhouse for the start of boating activities.

Cont. pg. 3



Commodore's Letter

(Cont. from Pg. 1)

We will also have some construction going on at the Club early this season. It involves replacing our gasoline delivery pipe that runs from the shoreside of the pier out to the gasoline dispenser at the head of the pier. We expect that this work will be completed by early-June, but, as things go, it may stretch out longer than that. Please be patient as this repair/replacement is completed.

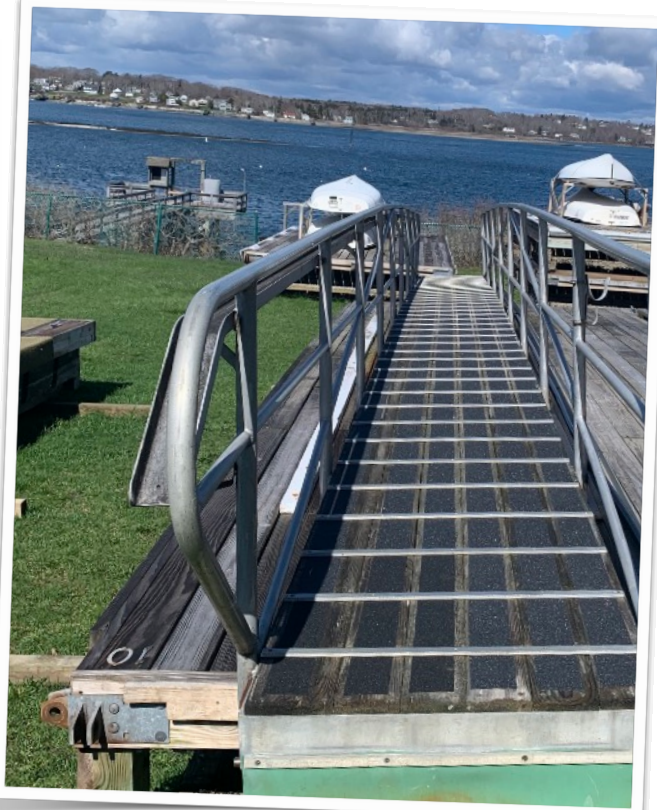
The Social Committee has developed the Social Calendar of Event for this season (Page 5-7) and it will be distributed shortly in either hard copy (for new members) or as an e-blast. I think you'll all enjoy this year's events. Members are needed to help with the success of our events. Please feel free to reach out to Bunny Siegel, Margie Rusczek, Lynne Knight or me to express your interest.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our New Members to the OBYC. It's great to have you all here with us this season! Please feel free to reach out to me, to the members of our Board and to the Chairs of the various committees with any questions, comments or ideas that you may have. We also look forward to seeing you at the June 27th New Member Introduction and Blessing of the Fleet event. We're a great community of water-minded people and we are very glad to have you as part of our group this year.

In closing I'd like to thank the membership for their support of some challenging situations and initiatives this Winter. We're doing our best to create a better Club for everyone and we appreciate the part that you have played in doing that.

Almost Anchors Aweigh!

Allan



Nick and Jake Barker replaced the non-skid surface on the ramp.

If you're a frequent user of the waterfront you may have noticed that the non-skid on the main ramp leading to the floats had become worn down almost to the point of being unsafe.

Waterfront and Anchorage co-chair, Ed Kenyon said "A huge Thank You to Nick and Jake Barker who volunteered in April to strip the existing non-skid off of the ramp and replace it with new non-skid, thereby making it much safer when schlepping your gear up and down the ramp."

Reopening

Cont. from Pg. 1

Saturday, May, 2, a work party with committee members will precede commissioning and we're excited for the number of members who have stepped up to accomplish a lengthy list of tasks. Thank you in advance to all of those volunteers!

The W&A Committee has formed an Executive Committee to help co-chairs Paul Cournoyer and Ed Kenyon in managing the waterfront and assisting with process development and decision making. Those EC members are: Kym Cournoyer, Tim Vail, and Diana Kenyon along with Teena Patton as our Board Liaison. You may wonder why co-chair spouses are on the EC Committee, but rest assured, they keep their husbands in line! Feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or issues pertaining to the waterfront.

The Town of Harpswell has a new Harbormaster. Darcie Couture has taken on the role after the departure of Paul Plummer who is now Portland's Harbormaster. The committee chairs will continue to act as Stewards of the club's mooring field with oversight by Darcie and

Deputy Harbormaster Greg Coyne. A reminder that mooring fees are due to be paid by May 1st.

The Harpswell Harbormaster requires mooring inspections every three years. Due to the amount of current in the club's mooring field, it's typical for mooring chains to deteriorate over just a few years. Play it safe and schedule an inspection.

We will also be working with Darcie and Greg to cull out abandoned moorings in the field. This is paramount to accommodate new mooring requests and relocations. If you have a mooring in the field that you are not using, please help your fellow boating members in need by relinquishing your vacant mooring. Contact Paul or Ed at obycanchorage@gmail.com for assistance.

Just a couple of reminders if you keep a dinghy at the floats; please ensure that it is bailed after a rainfall as dinghies full of water do not lay well with the other dinghies and they put unnecessary strain on the floats. Also, make sure your dinghy is labeled with your name and contact number as well as the club's dinghy permit sticker. The Waterfront & Anchorage Committee is not responsible for tending to members' dinghies.

Life Jackets Required for all under 13

The Maine Legislature passed a new law requiring children 12 years of age or younger to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) while on any watercraft that is underway and being used for recreational purposes.

This change increased the required age from 10 years of age or younger to 12 years of age or younger to improve youth safety on Maine's waters. The updated age requirement now aligns with federal law.

Exceptions to this requirement include if the child is below the decks, in an enclosed cabin or if the watercraft has a USCG certificate of inspection.

Membership Rolls Refilled

Membership chair Sandy Nelson reports that ten members resigned from the club, and two others died. They have been replaced by new members drawn from the Club waiting list.

The deaths included Jean Johnson and Helen Kitchel. See death notices on this page.

The members who resigned included: Rick & Luci Ruppel, Michael & Jane Jukes, John & Jane Tisdale, Betsy Parks. Ginny Copley, and B & Tina Millner.

Names and information about new members will be published in the June edition.

Helen Kitchel

Helen Kitchel died in December at the age of 76. A longtime Cub member, she lived on Orr's Island. She was the sister of Ned Kitchel and the aunt of Zoe Kitchel.

She spent most of her career as an elementary school teacher in Middlebury, Vt., before moving full-time to Maine in 2008 where she taught in Sanford.

In 2015 she retired to Orr's Island, where she had spent most summers of her life at the family cottage. She served on the All Saints Chapel Committee and the Orr's Island Library Board, and was president of the Mingo Club, a group of island women that awards scholarships to local high school students.

A celebration of Helen's life will take place at 2 p.m. on Aug. 2, 2026 at All Saints Chapel

Jean Johnson

Jean Appleby Johnson was tragically killed Wednesday, January 14, 2026 when she was struck by a vehicle on Orr's Island in Harpswell, Maine. She was 71 years old. She was the wife of Charlie Johnson.

Born in South Carolina, she spent her professional years in the Washington DC area, in the Ford and Reagan White Houses. After the death of her first husband she consulted with various non-profits.

She retired to Orr's Island in 2006 and married Charlie in 2009. She served on the boards of the Maine Maritime Museum, the Orr's Island Library, and the Salt Bay Chamberfest.

In addition to volunteering at the Club, she was active in numerous community organizations and church groups .

Social Calendar

Welcome to the 2026 OBYC Social Event Calendar! In addition to the social events listed below, please make use of the facilities to gather at other times as well. Remember all events on the calendar are BYO beverages.

The Social Committee encourages informal sunset gatherings on Friday nights, socializing on the porch. Bring an appetizer to share; barbecue supper if you wish. No sign up, no set up; just show up, but don't forget to clean up and lock up.

PLEASE NOTE: Sign-up for events is only necessary where stated. 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, please offer assistance.

Weekly events:

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| July 1 thru Aug. 26 | Bingo on Wednesdays - 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. This year's bingo games will be drop-in style (i.e, no designated host, so please show up, but don't forget to pick up, clean up & lock up.) For questions contact: Teena Patton [Christine.Patton48@yahoo.com] |
| June 29 thru Aug 7 | Abbot Fletcher Sailing School is in session 9 am to 4 pm |
| July 16 thru Sept 15 | Tuesday Yoga with Kara Douglas - 7:30am to 8:30am – These Gentle Yoga classes are for everyone, including those who have not participated in yoga before. Please bring your own yoga mat. Classes start promptly at 7:30 – please arrive 10 minutes early to settle in. \$15 per class. For questions contact: Charlie Johnson [charlie-j@outlook.com] |
| June 16 thru mid-Oct | Tuesday Mah Jongg - Come and join our Mah Jongg group for an afternoon of fun. All you need is a 2026 Card. We meet at the club on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 and play until 4:00-4:30. We will start on June 16th and play through mid-October or until it gets too cold. For questions or if you are interested in learning how to play, contact Linda Kittle at 913-306-2986. |

- May 13, Weds. afternoon Waterfront commissioning complete. Floats ready for use.
- June 12, Fri, 8am-10pm Barker private family event.
- June 13, Sat, 5pm Welcome back social gathering – Join us to open the OBYC summer season!
Bring an appetizer to share. Arrive 30 minutes early if you can help set up. For questions contact: Bunny Siegel
[blackdog5070@yahoo.com]
- June 20 thru July 16 AFSS Auction - Online bidding opens June 20 and ends July 16th at 9pm.
View auction items and place bids on the OBYC Web site. Pick up your purchased items on July 18th 9 to 10 am. Details to follow at a later date. For questions contact: Sue Baker
[stbaker42@comcast.net]
- June 27, Sat, 5pm Blessing of the Fleet and New Member Introductions – Gather at 5pm for cocktails. The Blessing will be at 5:45pm. Bring an appetizer to share. Arrive 30 minutes early if you can help set up. For questions contact: Lynn Knight [lynnknight@oldecove.com]
- July TBD Overnight Cruise with OBYC Friends – Cruise your own boat to a nearby anchorage. Meet at 5 pm to socialize with friends. Specific dates and destinations will be announced at a later date. For questions contact: Chris Nichols [nicholodeoncreative@gmail.com]
- July 4, Sat, 8–10am AFSS Pancake Breakfast -- Open to public. Organized and staffed by AFSS. \$12/adult, \$6/child ages 2-10, kids under 2 free. Breakfast 8 am to 10 am. Items for the AFSS Auction will be on display. For questions contact: Tom Nicholson [Thomas.nicholson@comcast.net] or Sue & Jeff Slocum (jasslocum@gmail.com).
- July 18, Sat, 9am – 10am Pick up purchased AFSS online auction items at the club.
- July 18, Sat, 5pm Pot Luck Dinner and Trivia Night – Bring a dish to share. Trivia games commence at 6:00. Arrive 30 minutes early if you can help set up. For questions contact: Jill Olausson [jillmarieo@gmail.com]
- July 23, Thurs, 7:00pm Book Group – The book selection for discussion is “The Weir,” by Ruth Moore (1943). For questions contact: Alice Hootsmans
[alicehootsmans@gmail.com]

- July 30, Thurs, 6:30pm Lecture – Gather for refreshments and then enjoy this interesting presentation. OBYC's Lew Incze, who studied lobsters during his career as a marine biologist, will inform us about the early life of lobsters in a dynamic coastal ecosystem. For questions contact: Cathy Kelley [ckelley0506@gmail.com]
- Aug TBD Overnight Cruise with OBYC Friends – Cruise your own boat to a nearby anchorage. Meet at 5 pm to socialize with friends. Specific dates and destinations will be announced at a later date. For questions contact: Chris Nichols [nicholodeoncreative@gmail.com]
- Aug 2, Sun, 10am – 9pm Kitchel private family event
- Aug 8, Sat, 7pm Dessert Pot Luck and Trivia Night – Bring your favorite dessert to share as we enjoy a fun competition. Arrive 30 minutes early if you can help set up. For questions contact: Cindy Burroughs [cindy.burroughs@gmail.com]
- Aug 13, Thurs, 7:00pm Book Group – The book selection for discussion is “The Berry Pickers,” by Amanda Peters (2023). For questions contact: Alice Hootsmans [alicehootsmans@gmail.com]
- Aug 15, Sat, 4pm Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Picnic – Please come to the annual meeting and at its conclusion, stay to socialize and enjoy a picnic supper provided by OBYC. This is a members-only event. Please sign up if you are planning to stay for the picnic so we can plan accordingly. For questions contact: Margie Rusczek [rusczek@comcast.net]
- Aug 27, Thurs, 6:30pm Lecture – Gather for refreshments and then enjoy Cook, will talk about his experience publishing the independent news report, “The Cook Political Report.” For questions contact: Cathy Kelley [ckelley0506@gmail.com]
- Sept 12, Sat, 5pm Chili/Chowder Potluck – Bring an appetizer, chili, salad, bread, or dessert to share. Please let us know what type of dish you are planning to bring on the sign-up sheets at the club. Arrive 30 minutes early if you can help set up. For questions contact: Judi Hartman [judiandsam123@gmail.com]
- Oct 3, Sat, 5pm Cocktail Social – Bring an appetizer to share. Arrive 30 minutes early if you can help set up. For questions contact: Lucy Cook [lucycook56@gmail.com]
- Dec 5, 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.

Yoga Classes Renewed

By Charlie Johnson

Morning Yoga at OBYC has been a tradition for more than a decade. Kara Douglas from Fishmoon Yoga will be our instructor again this year.

Classes will be held on Tuesday mornings from June 16th through September 15th at 7:30 AM.

These Gentle Yoga classes are for everyone, including those who have not participated in yoga before. The classes are a blend of active and restorative practices with attention to alignment and anatomy, keeping our bodies safe while our mind lets go. We focus on building and maintaining balance, keeping the immune system strong, and creating a foundation for further learning.

The classes are open to club member and guests. Please bring your own yoga mat and, as a courtesy to others, please arrive 5 to 10 minutes early to setup and socialize. Classes start promptly at 7:30.

The cost is \$15 per class payable directly to Kara. Multi-class passes, which can also be used at Kara's studio, are available as well. Learn more about her studio at <https://fishmoonyoga.com>



Paul and Kym Cournoyer donated an OBYC burgee to the Soggy Dollar Bar in the British Virgin Islands.

Comin' in HOT!

It's time to gear up with

Your New OBYC Apparel



visit the OBYC Homepage Club Store to

Sailing School Sign-ups Soar

By Sue Baker

Abbot Fletcher Sailing School registrations already exceed last year's enrollment of 72 students, with 78 applications received thus far. The majority are for the Beginner classes, with four of the six weeks full already. Space remains in the Intermediate and Racing programs; these classes meet in the afternoons.

Pete Worthington is returning as Head Instructor and Elena Rodriguez returns for her second year as an Instructor. Joining the paid staff this year is Claire Filipowski who was a volunteer in 2024 and 2025. A new crop of volunteer instructors this year, includes former students Charlie Gray, Adelaide Pulku, and Fiona Tillinghast. Joining them will be returning volunteer Sundari von Wentzel and Mark Nickerson, a long-time sailor from Brunswick.

Members of the Sailing Committee will be hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, July 4 from 8 to 10 a.m. Sue and Jeff Slocum have joined Cathy and Tom Nicholson to chair this event. Tuition covers only a portion of the operational expenses so this is an important fundraiser for AFSS.

Also on the schedule is the Online Silent Auction that provides funds for capital needs of AFSS such as replacement of sailboats and motors. Traditionally, area businesses in Harpswell, Bath, and Brunswick have generously offered gift certificates or merchandise, and many OBYC members have also donated items to this event. Items will be added to the website as they become available. Bidding will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 16.

Club Newsletter

OBYC Happenings comes out monthly from May to October. This is the final issue of the 2025 season. The next issue will be in early May.

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

Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

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Commodore — Allan Jarvis
Vice Commodore — Andy Ruzcek
Secretary — Dawn Kalmar
Treasurer — David Hamilton
Asst. Treasurer — Sue Baker

Directors

Tara McCarthy
Phil Sumner
Howard Levitan
Janice Skillings-Goff
Teena Patton
Lee McIlvaine
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