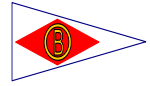




AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #2 – 7/6/26 – 7/10/26

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 every day. The wind was light most days but more abundant towards the end of the week.

Our Beginner class had a great mix of students from ages 8-12 with students from across the Country and the World. They worked well together and had much fun. Sailing alone in an OPTI dinghy sailboat as a Beginner can be quite challenging. The tides and wind-driven current create an experience where students get excellent practice at skippering in a changing environment. We had light winds early in the week to get comfortable solo sailing on the OPTI's. On Friday we sailed on the Rhodes 19 in the heavier winds. Students also got to practice their compass and navigational chart reading skills. They also became quite proficient at knot tying. Square knots and figure eights were primary, and the bowline knot was introduced and practiced.



The Intermediate class also got on the water every day. The 420's are a two-person boat with one helmsperson and one crew that 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. 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 helmsperson'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. We had one racer so we incorporated some race courses into our curriculum. On Friday we had our only light air day so we took out the Rhodes and two 420's and included sponge tag as a fun and skill-orientated practice.

