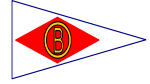




AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #4 – 7/20/26-7/24/26

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



Our 4th week at AFSS continued with some challenging weather with winds out of the West. Some gusts made planning difficult, and predictions were not very accurate.



The Beginners started the week with the swim test, capsize test, then learning how to rig the OPTI's and Rhodes. On Tuesday we got on the water for our steering drills and rotated students on the Rhodes 19 which is a full-keel boat that can hold six students and an instructor. All students get the opportunity to be at the helm (steering with the tiller) and operating the main and jib sheets. Heavier winds kept true Beginners in the Rhodes for much of the week while second- and third-year Beginners took on the challenge.

We had a smaller Intermediate group so they got a lot of attention. We also had two Beginners. The sailors worked a lot on upwind sailing and sail trim and being efficient at tacking and jibing. Handling the main sheet and the tiller during a turn is both a science and an art. On the blustery day the Intermediates were out in the Rhodes tacking up channel toward Mackerel Cove. We had one older Beginner who really progressed on the 420. We also had two returning but younger Intermediates who took on leadership positions on the 420's. This was great.

The Racing crew spent their first two days prepping for the MIRC sail race on Wednesday. Both boats were working on their roll tacks, a more advanced technique for tacking the 420 that helps maintain speed. The five students in the racing program have a lot of fun while practicing short courses and starting lines. The race was held Wednesday at KBIA in Kennebunk. The winds got crazy so the sailors only got in a few races and our OPTI racer only got one race in. They ended the week with improving on the skills they saw during the race that needed development.



AFSS team was busy this week planning a MIRC race that OBYC will be hosting the following Wednesday. These races are typically small and low-key, but they bring various clubs together from the Southern Maine Coast and even a club in New Hampshire. We are really looking forward to this. The OBYC and AFSS community are making this happen!

