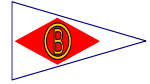




AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #5 – 7/27/26-7/31/26

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



A big week for OBYC and Abbot Fletcher Sailing School. We hosted a MIRC (Maine Interclub Racing Circuit) regatta on Wednesday. We had eleven visiting sailors from two different clubs, KBIA (Kennebunk Beach Improvement Association) and UNH, compete with six of our sailors. We had all five of our 420's on the water racing and three OPTI's. The head coach from UNH Community Sailing Centre set the course and ran the starting line--a true partnership between clubs. The wind was strong out of the SE and made for some exciting starting lines and buoy-roundings. AFSS sailors did a great job!

We ran both our Beginner and Intermediate classes while putting on the race. No easy task considering that we had all of our sail boats (18) in the water with three coach boats and a handful of OBYC members offering rides in their boats to parents and coaches

The Beginner morning class had a great week where we were on the water every day. We had some nice winds in a few mornings when a cold front brought some NW winds. Our coaches had some OPTI crew double up in the boats to add weight and make it easier to balance and tack. We used the Rhodes 19 keelboat, which can hold six sailors and a coach, many days. Many students really like steering and running the sheets (lines that control sail trim) in the Rhodes's. We had some older Beginners this session that made a diverse group that really came together. Our navigation, compass and chart lessons went very well. Their focus and interest were noted.





The afternoon class had a mix of older but new Beginners and some younger but more experienced sailors who were honing their skills on the 420's. What a great mix! A few days we had a mix of OPTI's and 420's sailing out to Stover's Point and working on tacking (turning into the wind) and jibing (turning away from the wind). Understanding wind direction and current are paramount in becoming skilled sailors. The Rhodes was also used on occasion where the winds were a bit strong. We also did some chart work one afternoon while rotating crew on the Rhodes.

Our six racers had their last week at AFSS. Practicing on set courses and starting lines really helped prepare the crews for our race midweek. Buoy-roundings and roll tacks were practiced regularly. Roll tacks intentionally exaggerate the boats movement side-to-side, rolling, which adds forward motion to the boat due to the foils (both the centerboard and the rudder blades). It's a skill born of timing and finesse. Our racers should be very proud of their accomplishments this summer. They also attended two races at other MIRC participating clubs.

