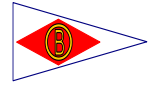




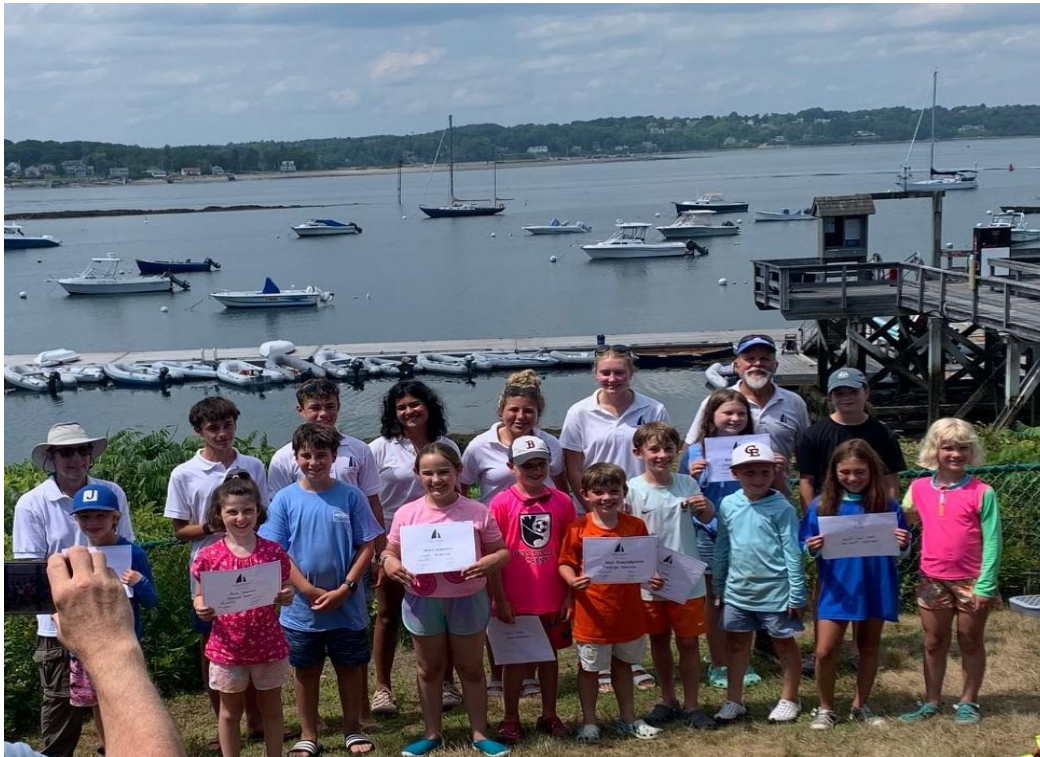
AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #6 – 8/3/26–8/7/26

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



Our sixth and final week of 2026 at Abbot Fletcher Sailing School brought excellent weather for Beginners in the morning as well as our afternoon sections. I'm amazed that we have had only one rain day the entire summer. We also had one fog day and one high wind day in the early weeks.



In the Beginner class we had 12 sailors. It was quite a mix of personalities and skill sets. We missed Monday due to weather but made the most of the remainder of the week. The wind was perfect from the South at 3-5 knots with calm seas. Most all students became confident enough to skipper their own boats across the Merriconeag Sound. Our typical navigational goals were to exit the OBYC mooring field, round the red nun navigational buoy and head upwind out the Sound just past Cook's Lobster on a series of tacks. Downwind was

relaxing and fun. Practicing jibes came easy. On Friday we did an excellent drill of sponge tag which brings close-quarter tacking and jibing with the theme of Safety and Fun! Overall, the instructors were all happy with the week, and the kids loved it.





In the Intermediate class we had only 3 students. It was a very relaxed afternoon where the staff was able to assist the sailors as well as get some much-needed boat work done. The students enhanced their skills on the 420's. The winds were a solid 8-12 knots all week. The 420 is 420 cm long which translates to nearly 14 feet. It's a popular boat in high-school and college sailing programs. These boats are designed to sail fastest at minimal heel. Many students are happy about that! This small

Intermediate class bonded very well and met all of the challenges that the instructors, and Mother Nature, set up for them!

It's been a great summer at AFSS. We have such wonderful people: students, parents, club members and have been fortunate to have such an excellent coaching staff, AFSS Executive Committee support and volunteer base from OBYC member families and the community. We had 3 new volunteers this week who assimilated well into the program. We had a record number of Beginners this year and are directing the program to serve their needs and build a stronger Intermediate Program, for both OPTI's and 420's. Thanks for all your support. I hope to see you all next summer.

-----Pete Worthington

