



OBYC

Happenings

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Commodore's Letter

Once again, it's hard to believe but we're already closer to Labor Day than we are to our signature Pancake Breakfast; this season at the OBYC, at least for me, seems to have flown by.

The AFSS is now in its 6th week of instruction and will finish up this coming Friday. The enrollment in this year's program has been excellent, as has the instruction and the roll-out of the weekly programs.

Last week the OBYC hosted a MIRC regatta for the Optis and the 420s which was well attended and provided the competitors, the organizers, the race committee helpers and the spectators with a great time and a chance to share racing experiences and stories. Hats off to those who put this regatta together and made it such a fun time for the young racers.

A note to those who own boats and keep their inflatable dinghies behind our floats. Please be aware that it's your responsibility to make sure that your dinghy sits well with the other dinghies in the nest. This includes keeping it dry, as a water-filled dinghy can cause problems both for other dinghies and

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Water Use Down 15%

By Bill Bulkeley

The Club Water Subcommittee reported that members have reduced water usage by about 15% from last year's levels. The drop reflects less use at the floats due to a lock on the freshwater hose and careful usage during events in the clubhouse.

However, water quality is becoming a concern. Measurement at the beginning of the season showed well-water chloride concentrations of 200 ppm, or parts per million, up from the 150 ppm level recorded at the end of the 2025 season. A second measurement in July showed 210 ppm.

Lee McIlavine, of the subcommittee, said the higher level was surprising, because the well had been recovering over the winter without any use for six months. He speculated the underground aquifer has been affected by the two years of summer drought.

The US EPA sets a "secondary maximum contaminant level guideline" of 250 ppm, although that is far below levels at which chloride becomes a health hazard. However, above 300 ppm salt can create a metallic taste to water and accelerate corrosion of metal parts and fittings.

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Commodore's Letter

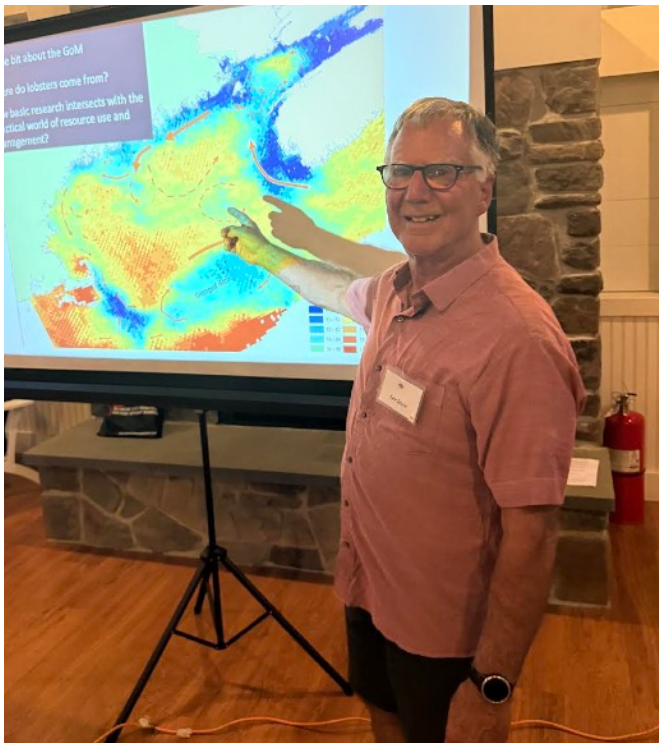
for the floats. So, please, bail your dinghies dry at least weekly or have someone else do it for you.

Water quality continues to be something that we're watching closely. Water use at the Club has been reduced over last season and that's movement in the right direction. The lock on the hose bib at the float seems to have worked out well this season. We will also install low water toilet fixtures at the Club in the next few weeks.

Our Social Committee has several fun events still on tap for this season, including a Dessert Pot Luck and Trivia Night on August 8th, the Member Appreciation Picnic following immediately after the Annual Meeting on August 15th, the second event in our Lecture Series hosted by Charlie Cook on August 27th and a Chilli/Chowder Potluck on September 12th.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who help keep our Club running so well, year after year. The Board, the Committee Chairs and Executive Committees, the Committee members themselves and the membership as a whole. Everyone knowing what to do and doing their part is what makes the OBYC the special volunteer-based Club that all of us to enjoy. So, if you hear a cannon in the background, then know that it's being fired as a salute to you, for the things that you do for your Club

Allan



Some 45 people listened attentively as Lew Incze outlined some of his research on ocean current patterns in bays along the Gulf of Maine and their impact on lobster populations. He explained that currents disperse lobster larvae, but most end up maturing near where they are hatched. Lew spent most of his career as a research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory in East Boothbay, Me.

Water Use

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“A reasonable assessment is the water quality of the aquifer has decreased as a delayed response following the droughts in the late summer and fall of 2024 and 2025,” Lee said.

That indicates that our well water quality is affected by the shortage of freshwater entering the aquifer after rainstorms as well as the drawdown of other wells in our area.

The town of Harpswell has announced that it is going to start a program to map all wells in town. It has started an online-only drinking water and septic system survey. The 10 question form is available at the town web site.

Nevertheless, it is important for the Club to continue to carefully conserve water drawn from our well.

Club water usage occurs in two areas: at the floats and during social events. The biggest short-term draws are at the floats where members may rinse off their boats or fill freshwater tanks with up to 100 gallons of water. The Water subcommittee says that users should draw no more than 50 gallons and then pause at least 15 minutes to allow the well to replenish. Boat washing should be limited to five or six minutes.

“More than 15 minutes of continuous water use draws the water level in the well down to a level which puts stress on the bedrock aquifer and presents a higher risk of saltwater intrusion,” Lee said. Based on the club’s continuous monitoring equipment, it takes 17 hours to fully replenish the well after just 15 minutes of heavy drawdown.

The Club will be replacing 20-year old water fixtures in the bathrooms with modern low water fixtures.

The water subcommittee congratulated the volunteer crew that handled the Pancake Breakfast this year for using 145 gallons less of water despite serving a record crowd.

The subcommittee is reminding clean-up volunteers that a dishwasher load uses less than 7 gallons of water — far less than handwashing and rinsing. Best practices include soaking utensils in a bowl of soapy water before placing them in the dishwasher rather than rinsing them under a running faucet.

The subcommittee concluded that the water quality issues don’t seem to be the result of club activities. Chloride levels will be measured again at the end of the season and then the beginning of next season. The subcommittee is preparing contingency plans for future action.

Meanwhile, Lee and Mark Tubinis are seeking a third member to join them on the committee Please raise your hands.



Social Calendar

The Social Committee encourages informal sunset socializing on Friday nights. 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: All events are BYO beverage. 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 |
| June 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 - 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 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 |
| 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] |

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 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 “Tuesday Down East” by Robert Feldman. 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 hear Charlie Cook, 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. questions and/or if you can help contact: Tim Vail or Joanne Urquhart [jurq.23@gmail.com] Lucy Cook

Silent Auction Raised \$5,000

By Max Fletcher

The Sailing School silent auction raised over \$5,000. Record crowds attended the Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, lining up to get in.

The Sailing School Committee expressed “A huge thank you to the nearly 40 bidders who joined the fun, as well as the 37 local businesses and generous OBYC members who donated items and gift cards!” The auction was a resounding success, with several delighted winners noting that their items “were even more beautiful in person than online.”

These vital funds are crucial to Abbott Fletcher Sailing School operations. They directly enable keeping our boats, motors, trailers, sails and equipment in peak condition and help achieve the annual goal of being cost-neutral to the club.

Looking ahead, we want to ensure this auction remains a fun, engaging, and rewarding experience for both donors and bidders. If you have any ideas or feedback on how we can make next year's event even better, we would love to hear from you!

Club Newsletter

OBYC Happenings comes out monthly from May to October.

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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