



Happenings

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Kalmar Chosen Commodore

By Bill Bulkeley

The Club Board of directors elected Dawn Kalmar, longtime secretary, to be the new Commodore following the annual meeting in August.

Holly Lusk was chosen vice commodore and Tara McCarthy was chosen secretary. Jon Skinner was elected treasurer.

Dawn, a Boston biotech executive with a summer home on Orr's Island, succeeds Allan Jarvis as Commodore. Holly, who has served as secretary of the board in past years, succeeds Andy Ruscsek as vice commodore. At the meeting, Andy presented a formal "Thank You" to Allan for stepping up as Commodore.

Tara, who has been on the board for a number of years will replace Dawn. Jon will replace David Hamilton in the treasurer's function.

In farewell remarks, Allan expressed thanks to all the committee chairs. "This club essentially runs itself. This is very rare," he said. He expressed special thanks to retiring board member Howard Levitan for his work in helping the club migrate financial operations to server based software with improved cyber-security.



Dawn Kalmar

Floats Closing October 4

Annual Meeting Reports

Financial

David Hamilton, outgoing treasurer, said, "The Club is in excellent financial shape." He said that in the current year, operating expenses have run slightly below budget, and revenue has been about \$10,000 better than expected. The revenue improvement is largely due to the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School which had "very strong enrollment," and made more than anticipated from the annual auction and pancake breakfast.

The sailing school had 87 students in total, most of whom came for one week. Half of them were first timers, which gives promise for strong re-enrollments next year.

Kristin Fletcher, chair of the finance committee, said that the Club has created a long-term capital budget looking at potential capital costs over 18 years. The biggest single item is the pier, which will probably have to be replaced in 10-15 years, and may cost in the range of \$250,000 - \$300,000.

The club maintains a capital reserve, which it adds to in most years. That reserve is currently about \$230,000. It also has a \$75,000 operating reserve for operating use within the year it is collected. The sailing school has a reserve fund of its own, currently about \$35,000.



Kristin Fletcher

Membership

Sandy Nelson, membership chair, reported that the Club currently has 261 members. That reflects the departure of 17 members by resignation or death, and the addition of 17 new members since the previous annual meeting.

There are currently 23 people on the waiting list, including 11 couples and one single. He said he also has had five new inquiries from people who want to learn how to join. Based on recent patterns, a new applicant with the required two sponsors would probably need to wait a little more than two years before a spot opened up.

Sandy reminded members that if they have children between 22 and 26 years old, they should encourage them to become junior associate members. Junior associates can become members automatically when they turn 26 and they avoid the initiation fee.



Sandy Nelson

Waterfront Season Ending

Paul Cournoyer, speaking for the waterfront and anchorage committee at the annual meeting , announced that the waterfront will be closed Sunday October 4, with float removal scheduled for Tuesday October 6th. Float removal is done by a small experienced crew of members aiding professionals who work with a giant crane to lift floats onto the club lawn.

Paul explained that float removal timing is dictated by the need for a morning high tide. Morning is the best time to work, because the crane won't lift floats if the wind is blowing more than a few miles an hour. Winds almost always pick up in the afternoon in Harpswell Sound.

All dinghies must be removed from the water and off of the floats by Sunday October 4th.

He said there will be a Waterfront and Anchorage Work Party on Saturday October 3rd starting at 10:00AM. All members are invited to attend and lend a hand for this event.

The floats will be launched and the waterfront will be open for members on Saturday May 15, 2027.



Vice commodore Andy Ruszcek thanks Allan Jarvis for his service as Commodore. Howard Levitan is in the foreground. All three are stepping down from their roles.

Merch Goes Online Only

Traci Sumner announced that the Merchandise Committee is ending in-person sales of apparel and accessories. In the future she said, members should go to the OBYC.org web page and click the button on the bottom the first page.

The Merchandise Committee ran an Annual Meeting Liquidation Event to sell its remaining inventory at rock-bottom prices.

Traci thanked members for snapping up the great deals and said, "Thanks to you, we will be seeing far more of our lovely clothing and accessories sported about the islands ."

OBYC burgees will continue to be available at the clubhouse through any Merch

Committee member for \$35 (small) and \$45 (large).



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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| 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 |
| 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 |

Charlie Chats About Politics

By Bill Bulkeley

"People don't realize how partisan voters have become," OBYC-member and political analyst, Charlie Cook told about 50 members who came to the club for his lecture Aug. 27. The veteran political observer said it has led to politics that is nastier and makes compromise impossible on many issues.

For the last 42 years, Charlie has had a bird's eye view of the changes in electoral politics as founder of the Cook Political Report, a Washington DC publication that analyzes state and federal races on a strictly non-partisan basis.

In recent years, "it's become more acrimonious," he said. "The less ideological people on both sides have pulled back from being involved."

Looking at the midterm election going on now, he said "history would say, Republicans will have a very bad night." But he said, "It's a friendly map for them," with few Republican incumbents in danger. "There are five Senate races that could all go Republican or could all shift over."

In the House, "gerrymandering has led to fewer competitive districts," so a huge 60-seat swing such as has happened in the past, is impossible.

What about Maine? Charlie noted that it is a "bluish" state but Susan Collins will have a lot of power as Appropriations Committee chair if Republicans hold the Senate, which would be appealing to Maine voters. Moreover, "No one ever accused Troy Jackson of being charismatic."

Charlie said he started the newsletter because after working for a Democratic Senator from his native Louisiana and doing other political jobs, he realized that he was more inclined to vote for individuals than on a party line. He concluded he needed to find a non-partisan outlet to pursue his love of politics.

The Cook Political Report stays non-partisan by strictly avoiding cheerleading for either side and providing a one-stop view of how every House and Senate race is going based on interviews with insiders, candidate quality, state and national political trends. Its analysis of races as "toss-up", "solid" or "lean" are widely quoted in newspapers and television. Its policy of doing all interviews on background without quoting



anyone by name encourages people to speak frankly, Charlie says.

Since Charlie sold it to an associate four years ago it has continued to be widely cited. One pundit calls it "The Bible of the political community."

Charlie lamented that over the course of his career, "ideological intensity got greater and greater." That was partly due to the FCC in 1988 repealing the "Fairness doctrine" that required users of public airwaves to balance the amount of time each party got on the air. The first impact was on talk radio which became a bastion of the right. Then cable television started with all-news channel CNN followed by more partisan cable Fox and MSNBC.

Charlie offered a variety of unconventional thoughts. He said the cable TV networks "don't try to influence. They simply identify an audience to reach and tell that audience what it wants to hear."

He said, "Some polls are wrong, but not all." He said that polls such as New York Times/Siena polls, Fox networks polls, NBC, The Wall Street Journal and Pew Research are particularly good. He also praised AARP's.

But he said there are lots of junk polls that over-sample certain groups, like young people, without adjusting for how few votes they cast. And he said primary voting in states like Wisconsin and Michigan where voters walk into a polling location and declare their party is extremely difficult to predict.

He said that while 33% of registered voters nationally are independents only 10% of them don't lean toward one party or the other. "They read less news and tend to be very fickle. They vote one way and then the other way in the next election. But a lot of them stay home."

Charlie noted that in 2024, the seven purple states all had 3% undecided and most had 1-point differences between Harris and Trump in the polls. But on election day, two-thirds of the undecideds in each of those states voted for Trump giving him the electoral college majority.

"The country is very evenly divided," Charlie said.



*Trivia Night Hosts (left)
and Winners (below)*



New Member Tessa Barker

Tessa Peredy Barker became our newest members, following her June wedding to member Nick Barker.

A native of Freeport, Me., she is a OBGYN resident physician at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

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

Officers

Commodore — Dawn Kalmar
Vice Commodore — Holly Lusk
Secretary — Tara McCarthy
Treasurer — Jon Skinner
Asst. Treasurer — Sue Baker

Directors

Phil Sumner
Janice Skillings-Goff
Teena Patton
Lee McIlvaine
Chris Nichols
Tom Nicholson
Liz Incze