

# SPLICE

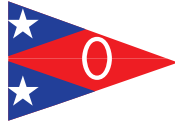
THE ONONDAGA YACHT CLUB



Vol. 27/No. 2

## From the Helm – The Commodore’s Corner

by Tess Freedman



**The British Virgin Islands again beckoned as Onondaga Lake and our OYC clubhouse sat**

**frozen in the February icebox.** Jeff and I set sail on our second bare-boat charter, this time on a Jeanneau 42 sloop, with Jeff’s sister and two friends as additional crew. With last year’s experience in hand, our goal was to sail to Anegada, the only coral island in the archipelago. We loaded our provisions and tacked up the Sir Francis Drake Channel, anchoring one night at Marina Cay, then anchoring the second night in North Sound on Virgin Gorda. We took the dinghy to Prickly Pear Island to swim off the beach, and discovered a salt pond where a solitary Caribbean flamingo was feeding. The following morning, we headed north on a broad reach for our 15 mile sail to Anegada. Our plan was to anchor and go ashore the next day to swim, snorkel, and view the iguanas, and flocks of flamingos and other tropical birds. This low, flat island is surrounded by Horseshoe Reef, and unlike the other volcanic islands, cannot be seen until one or two palm trees appear on the horizon as sailors carefully navigate to the entrance channel. The wind and waves had been building as we sailed, and when we finally anchored, the water proved too choppy to safely board the dinghy and go ashore. The next morning, we heeded the prediction of small craft warnings and six-foot seas for the following day, and aborted our planned day trip to the island, instead heading back out in the Caribbean to seek a safer harbor for that evening. Our goal was to travel southeast towards Jost Van Dyke, which that day was upwind. After one three hour tack that seemed to be carrying us farther out into the ocean, we came about, only to find that with our main reefed and jib only 1/3 unfurled in the 22 kt wind, we could only point southeast, back towards the islands east of Tortola. I picked out a route back to Spanish Town in the south of Virgin Gorda, where we



had stayed the previous year in a protected marina. After a 7-hour, 37-mile journey back from Anegada, we safely waited out the wind and rain, and sailed the next two days in the protected Sir Francis Drake Channel, glad to have seen the one flamingo earlier in the trip. We logged 114 miles sailed in six days. We had extended our sailing experiences to open ocean sailing in a thrilling fashion, enjoying the sun and wind, and hoping to return.

We at OYC are now setting goals for the year, planning our calendar, and looking forward to sunshine, warmth, and fair sailing, kayaking, or powerboating. We’ll be opening the clubhouse on Saturday, April 25, and May is full of social events, including the “Hot Stove Party” on Saturday, May 9, our wine tasting on Friday, May 15, and our Commissioning Ceremony and Dinner on Sunday, May 17. Our first handicap races are on Memorial Day. So roll up your sleeves and help get our boats, clubhouse and gardens ready for the season, and invite your friends to our May social activities. Let your family and friends know about our upcoming junior and adult sailing school June 29, 30, July 1 and July 6, 7, 8.

**I invite you all to celebrate the beginning of the boating season as we raise our flags and burgee and fire the mini-cannon over the water at our 2015 Commissioning, and wish you a wonderful new season at OYC!**

APRIL/MAY 2015

## Winter Get Together!



On March 14, the parking lot was overflowing as members gathered for our Winter Get Together. We enjoyed snacks and visiting by the fire. Redheads and common mergansers were swimming in the Marina. Thanks to all who cleared the snow from our walkways, porch and around the corral, and to those who brought wood for the fireplace to make this event possible.

## Native Species Garden Proposal Submitted to SUNY-ESF

by Jeff Freedman

With approval by the OYC Board of Trustees and Parks Commissioner Bill Lansley, a proposal seeking assistance in the design of "a beautiful colorful demonstration garden consisting of native plant species endogenous to the Onondaga Lake environs" has been submitted to the Center for Community Design Research (CCDR) in the Department of Landscape Architecture at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF). The proposed garden at Onondaga Yacht Club is intended to demonstrate the attractiveness of native plant species, as distinct from non-native species that often displace native species in local plant communities. Professor Donald J. Leopold, Chair of the Department of Environmental Forestry and Biology at SUNY-ESF and his Ph.D. student Catherine L. Landis have offered to provide an initial list of suitable endogenous and historically important plants. Should the proposal be accepted, volunteers from OYC would meet with landscape architecture faculty and students from SUNY-ESF to develop a garden design with labeled native species in a succession of bloom during the growing season.

## Opening Work Party

Opening work party starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. on



Saturday, April 25! Weather permitting, we'll move the small boats and dollies from the porch and clubhouse, sweep and arrange the fireplace room, get the kitchen ready for the season, install the hoist and dock (if the ice has melted—bring your waders), uncover, clean and wax the club boats, raise the yardarm, hang the porch blinds, and prepare the flower beds. Come lend a hand on this important day in the life of the club. Coffee, juice, bagels and donuts will be served. Start planning our summer together—and enjoy the beautiful spring blooms at the club. Join us Saturday, April 25!

## Boat Show

Thanks to the many, many OYC members who staffed the OYC booth at the Central New York Boat Show or helped set up or take down the booth, February 11-15. We were able to attract new members and spread the word about our sailing school and activities.



## OYC 2015 Wine Tasting Night

by Melissa Sieling

Wine & Pairing Competition  
Friday, May 15 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Members and guests \$5, adults only

To make this fun and affordable, we're asking everyone to bring a bottle of wine and a paired food item – an appetizer, entree or dessert. When you RSVP let us know what you plan to bring so we can plan the rest of the food.

Prize categories include: Best Wine; Best Pairing; Best Home-made Wine.

Please RSVP by email no later than May 13 to: [melissa.sieling@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.sieling@gmail.com)

## Boating Safety Course Offered at OYC by the United States Power Squadrons

ABC3, America's Boating Course, is the introduction to boating safety course. A boating safety certificate (earned by passing ABC3) is required by New York State for anyone over the age of 14 to operate a personal watercraft, and

for anyone over 10 years old and born after May 1, 1996 to operate any mechanically propelled boat. Eight hours of class time plus proctored exam. Cost is \$47 for materials and exam (\$12 for additional family members sharing text).

LOCATION	DATES	TIME
Onondaga Yacht Club, Liverpool Sycamore St. at Onondaga Lake, Liverpool, NY 13088	Saturdays, May 9 and 16; Exam May 24, 9:30 am	9:30 am – 2:15 pm Two 4-hr sessions (with lunch break) plus exam

Contact Tess Freedman to find out more! [tbfreedm@gmail.com](mailto:tbfreedm@gmail.com) 446-6329  
We will email you a link for on-line preregistration



## DINING OUT

by Rear Commodore Diane Knowlton

### The dinner bell is about to ring again!!

May 17, Sunday, is the Commissioning Ceremony and Catered Dinner. Gather at 5:00 for nuts, cheese, crackers and dip followed by the ceremony at 5:30 and then a catered dinner at 6:00. Reservations are due by noon on Thursday before the event, May 14 by calling Diane at 426-2880(h) or 498-2432(w), e-mail knowltod@sunyocc.edu or by signing up at the club. Make sure that you get a confirmation of your reservation by email or phone. Thank you to Rosemary DeHoog and to Ray O'Connell for signing up to be host/hostess for that dinner. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the club for other members to host dinners at the club this season. Get a friend and sign up together and it won't be so much work for anybody – setting up tables, chairs and

cleaning up after the event. May 25, Monday is the Memorial Day Hot Dog & Hamburger Picnic – the club supplies the hot dogs and hamburgers, members must bring a salad or dessert to share. Once again, sign up is by noon Thursday before the event, May 21. May 31 and June 7 are covered dish dinners which start promptly at 6:00 pm. June 14 is the Commodore's Spaghetti Dinner, June 21 Father's Day covered dish and June 28 is a covered dish.

**Join us for an evening of friendship!**

## Commissioning Dinner

**Sunday, May 17 at 5:00 pm.** Adults \$15 per person; Children \$7. **Reservation deadline: Noon on May 14.** Sign up by calling Diane Knowlton at (h)426-2880, (w)498-2432, sign the sheets at the club, or e-mail Diane at knowltod@sunyocc.edu. Make sure you specify your entrée choice, and that you have received a confirmation of your reservation.

Hors d'oeuvres before dinner  
Choice of **beef tenderloin, tilapia** with panko and lemon butter sauce or **vegetarian**  
Twice-baked potato  
Asparagus  
Wedge salad with homemade blue cheese dressing  
Dessert



## Onondaga Yacht Club Racing

by Greg Chapin

The main goal is to have fun and to help each other improve their sailing skills. The sailboats that race are generally between 12 and 26 feet and all are welcome. You may invite dock neighbors to join us.

Races have a skippers meeting on the porch at 1 with the race starting near 1:30 on Sundays.

If you would like an experienced racer to race with you to "show you the ropes"; or if you would like to crew with an experienced racer this can be arranged and there is much you could learn.

Crew for a boat racing is often needed. Let us know if you are interested or show up on Sunday around noon and let people know you would like to help. Offering to help committee a race is a good place to start learning about the fun.

Memorial Day Silk Pennant Race 5/25 – Skippers meeting @ 1:00

Handicap Races begin 5/31; 1:00 p.m. every Sunday through end of September

Meeting Sunday 4/19 @ 10 to discuss suggestions for changes in OYC Racing Rules.

### Suggested Changes:

Committeeing in which marks are set will count toward the handicap series trophies, including the holiday races.

There will be no restriction to the number of times you committee. If you committee more races than you race your trophy may be a "First in Committee and Racing"

If in good faith, you set 3 marks and racing is canceled due to weather or participation this race will count for your committee obligation.

Due to the limited number of racers we will have only 1 fleet. If a second fleet has at least 3 boats for 50% of the handicap races, they will receive a "Fleet Trophy".

Participation trophies with creative names are encouraged.



## "The Mistletoe Victorious"

by Debra Flaherty

This was the headline for an article in the June 1, 1886 Syracuse Courier describing the Onondaga Yacht Club's first regatta. Subtitled "An Interesting and Exciting Contest", the reporter enthusiastically described the weather, the race, and even the clothing of the crews. Five boats began the race after two in the afternoon, but only two – the Mistletoe and the Aimee – finished (but second place

finisher, the Aimee's "crew were the best uniformed"). Steam yachts carried spectators around the lake after the sailboats. The writer estimated that there were an additional 700 people on the Salina pier to witness the regatta that took place in what sounded like ideal weather:

*"With the temperature warm enough to be comfortable, but not oppressive, a brisk breeze and a splendid course, nothing more could be asked."*

The course began at a buoy near the Salina pier, then to a buoy near Liverpool, on to another buoy near Geddes, then back to Salina, and each boat had to complete the course twice. Even though one of the boats entered in the regatta sprung a leak, another boat broke its mainsail gaff, and a boat called Maud dropped out, the article announced the regatta "a great success...and the club should feel encouraged by this fact and 'keep up the excitement.'" Nearly 130 years later, OYC members are still trying to do just that!



## Featured Trustee in April *Debra Flaherty*

I've been around boats most of my life – my father, brother and son all have owned power boats, but I only began sailing after I met my new husband, Tom. I'm also an avid kayaker who has paddled in Canada, Maine, the Adirondacks, Florida, Chesapeake Bay, and of course in the Finger Lakes region.

I retired last year after 31 years of teaching high school history, but I keep busy volunteering at the Onondaga Historical Association as well as writing articles for various history journals.

Tom and I have enjoyed getting to know other members of the OYC and we're eager to begin another season.

## EVENT CALENDAR

### April 25, Saturday

Opening Work Party, 9 am. Coffee and Donuts

### May 9, Saturday

Hot Stove Party, 7:30 pm. BYO beverage and dessert to pass

### May 1, Friday

Wine Tasting 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite wine and a hardy appetizer pairing

### May 17, Sunday

Commissioning Ceremony and Catered Dinner; Gather at 5:00 pm; Dinner at 6:00 pm

### May 25 Monday/Memorial Day

Liverpool Parade 9:00 am at the Park  
 Summer Sailboat Racing Program Commences –  
 Memorial Day Silk Pennant Race 1:00 pm  
 Hot Dog & Hamburger Picnic at 6:00 pm

## ~ 2015 OYC Officers ~

**Commodore:** Tess Freedman

**Vice Commodore:** Tom Ogden

**Rear Commodore:** Diane Knowlton

**Secretary:** Brian Colvin

**Treasurer:** Paul Johnson

**Trustees:** Debra Flaherty, Ron Higgins, Mark Rupprecht, Dave Urban, Ed Bambrick, Pete Kitt

**Editor/Publisher:** Ed Bambrick/Linda Ogden

*Design/printing provided by Integrated Marketing*

## Annual Audit Report

January 17, 2015

The audit committee consisting of Dave Urban, Garry Klink and Tom Ogden met to review the 2014 year-end report as provided by 2014 Treasurer, Paul Johnson. The audit committee reviewed the following documents: 2014 Year

End Report; 2014 Bank Postings; 2014 Cash Receipts; 2014 Expenses; NYS Tax Filings.

The following items were noted as a result of the review: The annual report was reviewed and balanced with beginning and ending balances as indicated by the Key Bank Year End Statement. All cash receipts were accounted for with deposits noted including transfers from checking to

savings at various times throughout the year. All checks and deposits were verified against the Key Bank Statements. All invoices were paid to date with no acknowledgement of any additional invoices due. The 2014 NYS Sales Tax Report was filed.

Signed: David E. Urban; Thomas Ogden, P. Garry Klink

## Onondaga Yacht Club

P.O. Box 186

Liverpool, NY, 13088