

SPLICE

THE ONONDAGA YACHT CLUB



Vol. 27/No. 5

From the Helm – The Commodore’s Corner

by Tess Freedman



OYC Commodore Tess Freedman



OYC Races in July



AUGUST 2015



....5, 4, 3, 2, 1... jump! OYC members Lee Hidy, Donna DeVore, John McAuliffe, and I were among the group of 41 who plunged into

Onondaga Lake from boats and a platform anchored off Willow Bay on Wednesday, July 22. Pete Kitt and Lucas Meyer sailed up on Pete’s Hobie 16, and many more OYC members watched from shore, as we bobbed around in our life jackets like rubber ducks. The water was quite refreshing, but we were glad to have the additional insulation from wet suits. Our flybridge cruiser “Empire” served both as a jumping platform and a repository from which Jeff and I passed out and retrieved life jackets and distributed towels declaring “I Swam In Onondaga Lake July 2015” to the dignitaries taking the plunge. We all need to actively promote our lake as a safe and beautiful place for recreational boating and eventually for beach swimming. Routine monitoring conducted by the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection over the past several years has found ammonia concentrations reduced to levels that protect aquatic life, phosphorus levels meeting standards for recreational use, and fecal bacterial levels meeting swimming standards in much of the lake (including our end) in 100% of their measurements. Algal blooms have disappeared since 2007, and there are no problems with toxic forms of blue-green algae or odors. Water clarity exceeds swimming safety guidance values 90% of the time. Northern Onondaga Lake is denoted by the NYS DEC as “a Class B waterbody, suitable for use as a public bathing beach, general recreation and support of aquatic life, but not as a water supply.”

New Memberships: OYC is nearing a membership goal of 70 set by a prior long-range planning committee—in July, our memberships reached 69 units, as we welcomed Rick and Melanie Nash from Baldwinsville (Rick and his grandsons were in Sailing School this summer), and Courtenay and Aaron McKeon and their sons Connor and Matthew, Liverpool residents who are interested in learning to sail.

Sailing School: Onondaga Lake was filled with sailboats in July, as 9 youth, 8 adults, and 5 Sea Scouts learned to sail or improved their

skills, taught by Heather McQuade (youth) and Craig Thayer (adults), assisted by Scott Kallstrom on the Sea Ray, Sam Stone as life guard, five Sea Scout Junior Counselors and 14 OYC members who took students out on club and member boats, assisted with launching and retrieving boats, or helped with registration and refreshments. Our sessions covered six lessons plus additional practice, with a goal of skippering or crewing on a triangular course. How thrilling to see the new sailors gain skills and confidence! Thanks so very much to all the OYC members who helped with this major OYC activity.

Sea Scout Regatta: OYC is hosting the second annual Erie Canal Flotilla Sea Scout Regatta August 14-16. Building on our experience from last summer, we expect about 50 scouts and leaders from ships in Skaneateles, Ithaca, Rochester, Liverpool, Clayton, and Williamsville, NY, and New Milford, PA to participate in the event, camping in tents around our flagpole, and engaging in on-the-water and shore-side activities. We’re certainly hoping for wind this year for the sailing races. Our scouts, led by Sam Stone and Lucas Meyer, are busy refurbishing three 13.6’ Blue Jays that OYC has just acquired, to add to our motley small boat fleet of Lasers, Sunfish, Force 5, and small sloops that will be used for the sailing events. We’re looking for OYC members to assist with breakfast (starting at 6:30 am) and lunch (hot dogs and salads) on Saturday, August 15, and with food purchases, parking and boat launching. A sign-up sheet is posted at the club.

August Social Events and Meals: Join us to honor those who have led OYC—our Past Commodores—at our catered dinner on August 9, Hors D’oeuvres at 6, dinner at 6:30. Sunday, August 16 is Pizza Night—bring a large or medium pizza (let us know what you are bringing so they aren’t all mushroom!). We’re planning a “Jimmy Buffet Night” adult social event, Friday, August 21 at 7:30 pm. We’ll try to get as many sailboats or powerboats out as possible for “Boats on the Lake” on Saturday, August 29th. Sign-up at the club for a ride or if you can take passengers. Then we’ll close the month with our State Fair Dinner on August 30, featuring sausage sandwiches, salt potatoes, corn and ice cream.

I hope to see you all in August!

Want To Learn How To Operate The Sea Ray?



by Dave Urban

Have you ever gone on a trip and had to drive a rental car? For most of us you take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the dash and where the buttons are and you are on your way. After a few miles you would think you were driving your own vehicle.

But driving a power boat is a whole different story. Many of our club members have never driven a power boat like our Sea Ray. There are some members who are interested in helping with Race Committee, but do not know how to operate a power boat. Others would like to know how to operate the Sea Ray in case there was an emergency on the water and the Sea Ray needed to be put into service.

We are trying to form a list of club members who have the skill and knowledge to operate the

Sea Ray and can help teach others. To insure the safety of club members and to prevent damage to the Sea Ray, we would like to offer training sessions on how to operate the Sea Ray. It is not hard, but it is not like driving a car. Docking the boat is like parallel parking, it takes practice.

Please contact me or Tess if you feel you are qualified to help teach others. I would like to meet with this group to make sure everyone truly knows how to operate the boat. If you would like to learn how to operate the Sea Ray, please contact me or Tess. In August I will have Tess send out dates and times that I will be available for teaching or I can set up an individual appointment.

Dave Urban daveurban@att.net



Jimmy Buffett Party at OYC Friday, August 21 at 7:30 pm

Cheese Burgers, Margaritas (or bring your own beer) and Island Dessert. Island attire encouraged. Bring a friend! \$5.00 admission, Adults only.

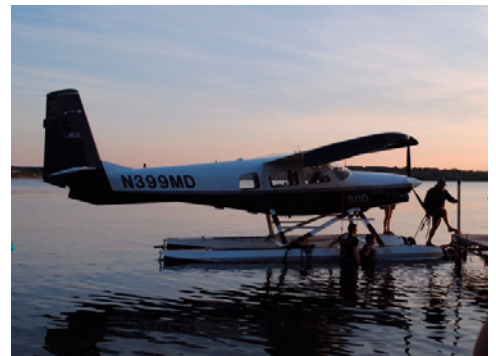
Hosted by Tim and Jane Witz

RSVP: tim.witz@gmail.com 315-491-5853

An Unexpected Visitor

by Mark Rupprecht

An unexpected visitor appeared and landed twice at the OYC dock on Thursday evening July 16. Our Sea Scouts assisted in pulling the Sea Plane to our dock. A passenger was attending a private event that was occurring at the club that evening.





Handicap Series leaders Greg Chapin (Mariner, right) and Bill Pease (Hunter 22, left) rounding a mark

SAILING STATS

by Jeff Freedman

HANDICAP RACING

Total 2015 handicap races sailed thus far on six Sundays...14

Total number of OYC handicap skippers thus far...14

Average number of boats per handicap race...5

Number of handicap skippers with at least 50% participation...6

Standings thus far for qualified skippers (score, % participation, Race Committee Days 0, 1, 2)...

- 1st Greg Chapin, O'Day Mariner (1.22, 64, 1)
- 2nd Bill Pease, Hunter 22 (1.73, 100, 2)
- 3rd Aiden Meyer, Laser (3.33, 50, 1)
- 4th Lucas Meyer, Sunfish (3.55, 79, 1)
- 5th Tom Ogden, Flying Scot (3.67, 86, 0)
- 6th Jerry Illowsky, Precision 18 (4.89, 79, 1)

Other skippers: Ellen Booth (Snipe, 1.00, 7, 0); Rob Stone (San Juan 21, 2.00, 7, 0); Lou Levine (O'Day 222, 4.00, 36, 0); Tim Fay (4.00, 7, 0); Ron Higgins (Capri 18, 4.80, 43, 1); Mark Rupprecht (Javelin, 5.00, 21, 0); Ron Barry (O'Day 192, 5.00, 7, 0); Melissa Sieling (Hunter 22, 6.00, 21, 0)

Number of handicap racing dates remaining...8

Eligibility for the season handicap trophies requires participation in at least 50% of races actually held AND AT LEAST TWO DAYS OF SERVICE ON RACE COMMITTEE (i.e. setting marks and timing the races).

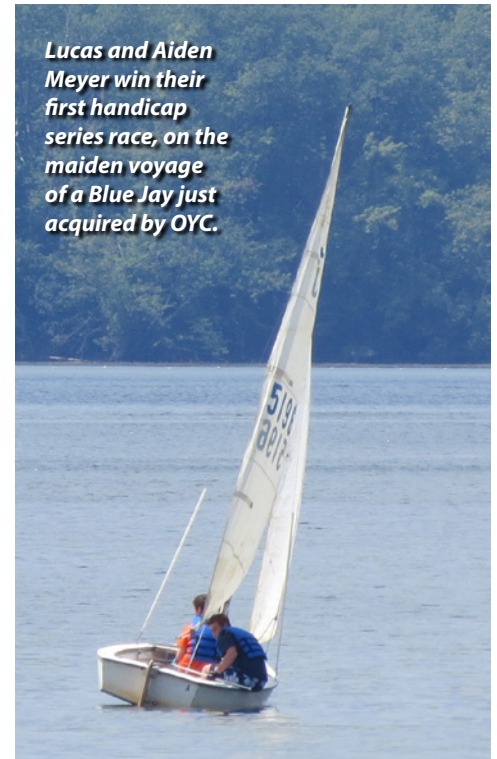
HOLIDAY REGATTAS

Average number of boats per holiday regatta...8

Total number of OYC holiday regatta skippers thus far...13

Results thus far...

Memorial Day Silk Scarf Race (to the outlet channel and back): 1st Place – Greg Chapin, O'Day Mariner



Lucas and Aiden Meyer win their first handicap series race, on the maiden voyage of a Blue Jay just acquired by OYC.

July 4th Fun Sail Race ("1776" course): 1st Place – Bill Pease, Hunter 22

Remaining Holiday Regattas...

Devore-Mahoney Labor Day Series: Sept 6 – 7

Long Distance Race (14 miles around the lake): Sunday, Oct 4

The complete 2015 Season Handicap and holiday racing results to date are posted on the racing bulletin board in the clubhouse. Plenty of opportunity remains for fun and adventure on the high seas of Onondaga Lake during the last half of the Summer and into the Fall!

Thanks to all who have raced and served on race committees and have helped set and retrieve the race buoys thus far this season.



DINING OUT

by Rear Commodore Diane Knowlton

Thank you to all of the host/hostesses you have had for July dinners, cooks and "bottle washers". Someone always seems to step in when necessary – maybe August will be your

turn. Each month there are a variety of dinners for club members to enjoy – August is no exception. We have covered dish dinners on August 2 and 23; Past Commodore's Catered dinner on August 9 which starts at 6:00 with hors d'oeuvres and dinner at 6:30. \$15 per person, children 7 – 12 is \$7 and under 7 is free. Reservations are due on Thursday, August 6 at noon. Sangria wine punch, peanuts, cheese dip with scoops and clams casino – pork medallions, caesar salad, red potatoes, zucchini and tomato sauce with mozzarella cheese, and a "surprise" dessert. Please come and say another "thank you" to those that served the club in the past and most still continue to serve in some way.

August 16 is the pizza buffet night – medium or large pizza of your choice – there will be salad, ice cream and cake being brought in by some members. August 30 is the State Fair Dinner, Sausage and rolls provided by the club. Bring a dish to pass. \$5 per person, children 7 – 12 is \$2.50 and under 7 is free. Reservations are due on Thursday, August 27 at noon.

Reservations: call Diane at home – 426-2880, work – 498-2432 or e-mail at knowltod@sunyocc.edu. Or sign up at the club. Confirmation will be by the same means as your reservation. *Don't eat alone, join us!*



TAKING THE PLUNGE Into Onondaga Lake

John McAuliffe, Honeywell Syracuse Program Director and Ken Lynch, DEC Region 7 Director



Pete Kitt and Lucas Meyer watching from Pete's Hobie 16



Waiting to jump from the Empire



OYC Members Donna Devore, Jeff Freedman and Lee Hidy



Onondaga County Parks Commissioner Bill Lansley

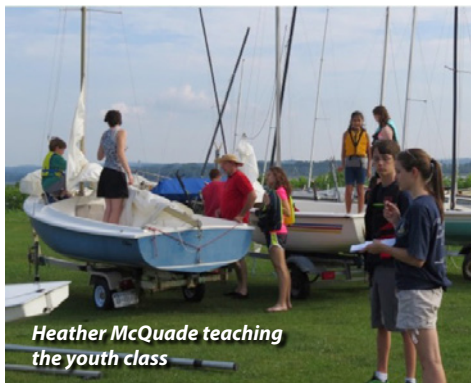


Rick Nash and grandsons sailing with Tom Ogden

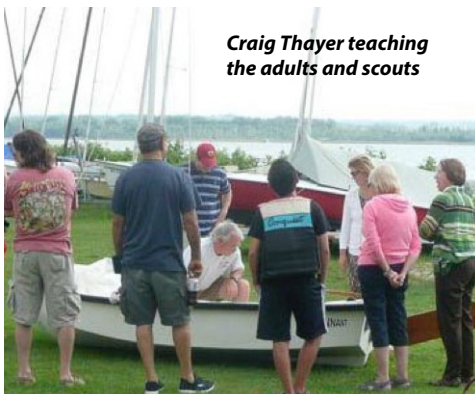
Sailing School 2015



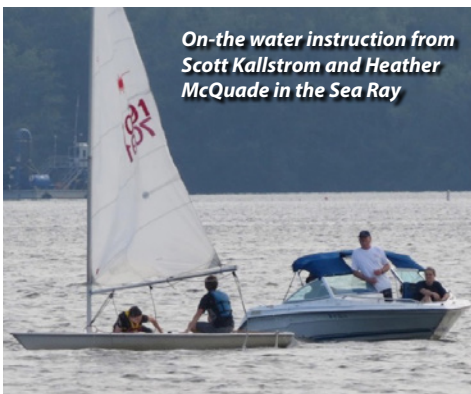
Sailing around a triangular course



Heather McQuade teaching the youth class



Craig Thayer teaching the adults and scouts



On-the-water instruction from Scott Kallstrom and Heather McQuade in the Sea Ray



Youth class sailing our dinghies



Launching our small sloops

Pictures by Scott Kallstrom, George Hernandez, Garry Klink and Tess Freedman



Other Visitors to Onondaga Lake Marina

by Tess Freedman

After the New Member Dinner, an American mink sauntered across the dock on C-wall, slipped between the dock sections, and swam to shore. It was later seen carrying off prey, probably one of the baby muskrats recently observed feeding on grass near the ramp to C-wall (photos by Tess Freedman and Garry Klink).



Boats on the Lake

by Tess Freedman

Let's set a record for the number of boats out on Onondaga Lake during the State Fair! This year "Boats on the Lake" is August 29, 2-4:30 pm. Members can sign up to be a passenger or take passengers on their sail or power boats.



OYC Races in July



EVENT CALENDAR

August 2 Sunday

Covered Dish 6:00 pm

August 9 Sunday

Past Commodore's Special Catered Dinner 6 pm Hors
D'oeuvres; 6:30 pm dinner

August 14-16 (Friday-Sunday)

Sea Scout Regatta

August 16 Sunday

Pizza Buffet Night 6:00 pm

August 21 Friday

Adult Social Event "Jimmy Buffet Night" 7:30 pm

August 23 Sunday

Covered Dish, 6:00 pm

August 29 Saturday

"Boats on the Lake" 2:00-4:30 pm

August 30 Sunday

State Fair Dinner 6:00 pm

~ 2015 OYC Officers ~

Commodore: Tess Freedman

Vice Commodore: Tom Ogden

Rear Commodore: Diane Knowlton

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Dave Urban, Ed Bambrick, Pete Kitt

Editor/Publisher: Ed Bambrick/Linda Ogden

Design/printing provided by Integrated Marketing