

SPLICE

THE ONONDAGA YACHT CLUB



Vol. 27/No. 7

From the Helm – The Commodore’s Corner

by Tess Freedman



Rejuvenation... After six months of Jeff’s illness, treatment and recovery, and my caretaking, Jeff and I recently headed south for some much needed R&R—all the way to Ithaca. We stayed at an inn and spa at the top of Buttermilk Falls. I indulged in some rejuvenation at the spa, and we hiked down the breathtaking Buttermilk Gorge. We would never have endured the return trek uphill, but the inn provided a ride back. We took an “Ecotour” on Cayuga lake, watching the becalmed Cornell sail team struggle back to shore, learning about the lake, and stopping to photograph a bald eagle, measure water clarity with a secchi disk, collect water samples, and view plankton and tiny invertebrates in a microscope. We enjoyed a stroll in Sapsucker Woods by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (we photographed more reptiles and amphibians than birds) and dined well. After two days, we returned with raised spirits and sore muscles, ready to finally participate in the sailing races on Sunday Sept. 20, our first races of the season.

Rejuvenation has also been occurring at OYC. Pete Kitt and some of our laser sailors have been working on our Laser fleet, making repairs, replacing fittings, battens, lines and halyards. The goal is to have 5 working lasers to use for training and racing. We’re almost there, but are still missing a rudder and tiller that remain on the bottom of the lake following last year’s Scout regatta. Let us know if you have any leads on a used Laser rudder and tiller. Dave Urban and Craig Thayer, with assistance from Lucas and Aiden Meyer, have been working on our Blue Jays, constructing new rudders, installing new fittings, sheets and halyards. This work will continue through the winter with removing old paint and repainting the hulls—does anyone have a suitable indoor space or garage for this work? Tom Ogden has organized our boating shed and improved our mast, sail and rudder storage. We’re making plans for a new shed for barbecues and lawn equipment in the corral, for a walkway to our new porch ramp, and for improvements to our launch ramp and dock.

This year has also seen **rejuvenation of youth racing at OYC.** Rob Stone has done a wonderful job as skipper of our Sea Scout Ship 876, which has grown in membership and breadth of activities. Our most experienced racers have taken our youth members, including Lucas and Aiden Meyer, and Sam Stone (before he left for college), sailing with them in races and tutoring them on racing techniques and rules. Aiden Meyer skippered Ellen Booth’s Snipe to victory in the Devore Mahoney Labor Day Series, and Lucas and Aiden crewed with Craig Thayer on his Lightning, winning the Wooden Lightning division in a recent regatta. This tutelage certainly paid off when Lucas and Aiden won the Northeast Region Sea Scout Chesapeake Sailing Championship, qualifying them for the 2015 Koch Cup International Sea Scout Championship next summer, and Sam Stone placed 4th, qualifying as an alternate for the Championship. They join past successful OYC junior racers Joe Raite, Jr., Amanda Hamlet, and Heather and Josh McQuade.

I have been privileged this year to work with a dedicated and active bridge and board at OYC. As I and some other members of our club leadership complete their terms or move to different positions, we look to our members to help lead our club next year. Please let me or any officer or board member know if you would like to serve on the OYC Bridge and Board in 2016, as we prepare a slate for our January elections.

As our season comes to a close, we look to member involvement in readying our boats and clubhouse for winter. We’ll be removing our seasonal dock, hauling and winterizing our boats and finally gathering for our closing work party on October 31. But before then, we have plenty of time for our Shore Dinner, Long Distance Race, fall sailing, our Pasta Dinner and last potlucks of the year, and our last social event, OYctoberfest.

Enjoy the final weeks of the 2015 Season at OYC!

OCTOBER 2015



Syracuse University Sailing Team Reconnects with OYC *by Jeff Freedman*

On Saturday evening, Sept. 19, 43 members of the SU Sailing Club/Team arrived by bus at OYC for a dinner dance sponsored by OYC Commodore and Past Commodore Tess and Jeff Freedman, and facilitated by OYC member and SU chaplain Gail Riina. The SU sailing team, which also includes students from SUNY College

of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), originated as the "Syracuse Yacht Club" in 1937. The club was inactive during WWII but was reactivated in 1947 by J. Gordon Bentley (1929 – 2004), who was inducted into the National Collegiate Sailing Hall of Fame in 1951, and who served as OYC's commodore in 1963. Phil Klink recalls

that the three paintings of clipper ships displayed in the center room of our clubhouse were donated to OYC in 1953 by the SU team in gratitude for our hosting their team. OYC member Alice Hidy was a member of the SU sailing team in 1956 and 1957, during which time the team continued to sail out of OYC. The SU sailing team website reports that the team also sailed out of OYC as late as 1973. Although not continuously active, the team was restarted in 2010 and currently sails out of Willow Bank Yacht Club in Cazenovia. Last year the SU team acquired a fleet of 8 Flying Juniors to supplement their four Club 420s. At SU they are a varsity club sport without a coach; they race in meets and regattas of the Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association. The club also has a "learn to sail" program for college students with experienced sailors in the club teaching novices. The SU sailors, many of whom have yacht club backgrounds, tremendously enjoyed their dinner dance at OYC, and were impressed overall with our sailing venue.



Time is running out to enjoy a dinner at the OYC for the 2015 season! All dinners start at 5:00 in October since it gets darker earlier, with the exception of the Annual Shore Dinner. We've enjoyed meeting new members and guests during our weekly dinners. Make sure you come during October to continue the tradition.

October 2, Friday – start preparing the chowders at 3:00 at the club

October 3, Saturday – Annual Shore Dinner – 1pm until dusk, members only – price depends upon your dinner choice

October 4 – Covered dish

October 11 – Pasta Night

October 18 – Covered dish

October 25 – Covered dish and Family Halloween Party – last dinner of the season.

MENU FOR THE PASTA NIGHT

Sausage soup, spaghetti pie with marinara sauce, fettuccini alfredo with broccoli and mushrooms, Italian bread and Italian dessert. Sign up is by October 8 at 3pm. Cost: \$15.00.

Also, please bring your can flip tops that you have been saving for the year so that they can be given as a donation.

If you need to contact me regarding OYC dining, you can call me at 426-2880 or email me at knowltod@sunyocc.edu.

Thank you!

Diane Knowlton



Aiden Meyer, skippering Ellen Booth's Snipe, with Ellen as crew, is the youngest skipper ever to win the Devore-Mahoney Labor Day Race Series at OYC. Nine boats entered the three races sailed on Labor Day this year. Aiden joins the top OYC racers in winning this prestigious and coveted OYC trophy, presented to Aiden by Jeff Freedman.



Over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of September, the second Northeast regional qualifier for the 2016 William I Koch International Sea Scout Cup was held at The Sailing Center, Tall Timbers Marina, Tall Timbers, MD. Ship 876 entered two crews; crew 1: Lucas Meyer – Skipper and Aiden Meyer crew, crew 2: Sam Stone Skipper and Robert Gustke crew.

There were 2 days of racing with thirteen races over the two days.

On day one, in light to medium winds, racing in boats 7 and 6, both teams needed to find their place in the first couple of races, being new to sailing in the Chesapeake. But by the third race all had changed. Of the remaining eleven races, one of the Ship 876 crews placed first in each of

them. By the end of the second day Aiden and Lucas had won eight races, and Sam and Robert had won three. In these eleven races, Lucas and Aiden were always in the top three and Sam and Robert in the top four.

On day 2 we had exhilarating winds of 12-13 mph with gusts up to 17. It was an amazing completion to watch with both crews showing exceptional skill and handling while sailing in boats 8 and 7.

Lucas and Aiden are the 2015 Northeast Region Chesapeake Champions, placing first place overall with Sam and Robert placing fourth. An fantastic job by both teams from Ship 876 sailing in boats 8, 7 and 6.

We all wish Lucas and Aiden the very best of luck when they enter the 2016 Koch Cup in Long Beach California. They have made all of ship 876 and Onondaga Yacht Club very proud!

CLOSING WORK PARTY



Come one, come all to the Club on Saturday, October 31st, for the Closing Work Party. Starting at 9:00 am we will winterize various systems, clear out the kitchen pantry, lower the yardarm, stow boats and equipment for the winter. The building will be padlocked the last weekend in November, when the electric power will be turned off. OYC insurance does not cover personal property, so please remove your personal items from the lockers and building.

Craig and Suzanne Thayer assist Vice Commodore Tom Ogden (right) at the Vice Commodore's Pancake Brunch, where we were treated to plain, blueberry, and banana walnut pancakes, sausage, bacon, and strata.





OYCtoberfest!

Friday, October 16 at 7:30 pm

October is for lovers at OYC!

BEER lovers of course! (and lovers of German food). Join your OYC friends for the annual OYCtoberfest to sample a variety of beers and food. Celebrate October by tasting some beers that you wouldn't normally drink. This last adult party of the year at OYC will be a great time to share end of summer sailing stories with all your OYC friends. Save the date and let us know if you intend to come so we can be sure there is enough great beer and food for everyone. Admission includes beer and food.

Adults: \$10.00

Reply to Pete Kitt, pkitt@buyersgroup.com



PASTA NIGHT

Sunday, October 11, 5:00 pm

Catered by Linda Sauter

Sausage Soup, Spaghetti Pie with Marinara Sauce, Fettuccini Alfredo with Broccoli and Mushrooms, Italian Bread, Italian Dessert

Adults \$15.00 ; 7-12 \$7.00; Under 7 Free

Sign up by 3 pm Thursday, October 8

Sailing Quotes

"Sailboats on starboard have the right of way"

"For boats on the same tack, the boat to windward must say clear."

"At the start of the race, boats barging (windward) have no rights and must keep clear."

"Avoid accidents at all cost."

"Accidents happen. Wear a lifejacket on your boat and require everyone else to do the same"

"Life jackets should be required safety equipment by every skipper."

"Have fun and be safe".

EVENT CALENDAR

October 2 Friday

Annual Chowder Preparation Party 3:00 pm

October 3 Saturday

Annual Shore Dinner 1:00 pm until dusk

October 4 Sunday

Annual Long Distance Race 1:00 pm
Covered Dish 5:00 pm

October 10 Saturday

Remove dock from water 9:00 am

October 11 Sunday

Pasta Night 5:00 pm

October 16 Friday

OYCtoberFest 7:30 pm

October 17 Saturday

Club boats out of the water

October 18 Sunday

Covered Dish 5:00 pm

October 25 Sunday

Covered Dish and Family Halloween Party 5:00 pm

October 31 Saturday

Closing Work Party 9:00 am

~ 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

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