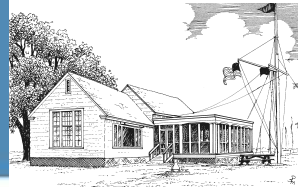


THE ONONDAGA YACHT CLUB SPLICE



Volume 31/No. 2

June/July 2017

From the Helm—the Commodore's Corner by Tom Ogden



The sailing season has officially begun with the opening of the club and the first official race of the season complete. A wet cold spring and high water has delayed the season for many members. With the lake water level now back to normal and temperatures warming

up, the excitement around the club is very evident. Your Commodore has had his boat in the water for weeks and has sailed a half dozen times. I would like to invite any new member to go out for a sail with me even if it is your first time on a sailboat. Roger Bowers has been out twice already, and we hope to get his wife Vicky sailing soon.

This year we will be hosting an **open house on Saturday June 10 from 11am – 3 pm**. We will need four people for each hour, two to staff an information table near the mailbox and two to show prospects around. We will give water bottles away to encourage conversation. Please let me know if you can work for an hour. I am targeting 10 new members from this event....Optimistic maybe? We will see.

Don't forget to think about attending or helping

with **sailing school** this year, which will be Tuesday – Thursday, **July 11, 12, 13 and July 18, 19, 20** from 5 pm to dusk, followed by three Wednesday evening practice sessions. Cost is \$90 for the first member and \$60 for additional family members. Fee for non-members is \$125. We have three US Sailing certified instructors teaching this year, Sea Scouts Robert Gustke and Cooper Pyle and yours truly Commodore Ogden.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have purchased a 2nd dolly for the dry sail boats; one is in the sail shed and the second is inside the storage fence

Members can store beverages in the refrigerator in the locker room... this is an honor system: use something, bring something.

There are two Club canoes for member use on the pram rack, marked with OYC lettering. Paddles are kept just inside locker room door hanging up.

Sunday afternoon member racing starts at 1 pm. Come down and watch or hop on a boat. All are welcome.

We have an IPOD charger plugged in next to the ladies room (please leave it there).

Our newest Ancient Mariner elected is Alice Hidy.

I look forward to seeing everyone around the club soon.

Robert Gustke Wins Regional Sea Scout Leadership Award



Congratulations to OYC member, Sea Scout Ship 876 past Boatswain and current Erie Canal Flotilla Boatswain Robert Gustke, who received the Regional Sea Scout Leadership Award. Flotilla Commodore Jim Graney presented the award to Robert as a Sea Scout "who has made exceptional contributions to Sea Scouting by holding a leadership position, and showing exceptional dedication and giving outstanding leadership and service to Sea Scouting at the regional level".



Dining Out at the Club

*By Deb Flaherty,
 Rear Commodore*

We began the 2017 season of dining at the OYC with several marvelous events: the Cinco de Mayo dinner on May 5th (which fans of Mexican food greatly enjoyed), the Hot Stove Party (desserts, desserts, and more desserts!), the Commissioning Dinner, and the Memorial Day picnic. The food was great at all of them! None of them could have happened, though, without the help of many, many people. Commodore Tom Ogden organized the Cinco de Mayo dinner and many members baked or created the yummy desserts for the Hot Stove Party.

I want to thank all those who helped with the Commissioning Dinner, but in particular Jan and Bill Beall for setting up and decorating the tables for the Commissioning Dinner, and Ed and Donna Bambrick and Vicki Bowers for their help with serving and clean-up, as well as Diane Knowlton who checked members in. The dinner couldn't have been a success without all of your help. I'm grateful also for the help of Kevin and Robin O'Leary, Tom Flaherty, Garry Klink, Dave and Pat Urban, and Tess and Jeff Freedman, who hosted the Memorial Day picnic.

We have more events scheduled for the next few weeks. There will be Covered Dish dinners at the OYC on June 18th (Father's Day), June 25th, July 9th, and July 30th; all of those begin at 5 P.M. Please sign up to host! The **Commodore's Spaghetti Dinner** will be held on Sunday, June 11th; Tuesday, July 4th is our annual **Independence Day Chicken Picnic**, beginning at 5 P.M. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and plan to stay late for fireworks! Later in July, on the 16th, the club's **Trustees sponsor a catered dinner** (more details to follow). The following Sunday, on July 23rd, we honor our new members at the **New Member Steak Dinner** (but you don't have to be a new member to attend). See the adjacent column for meal prices.

Please, if you have any suggestions for events, let me know. Hope to see you at the Club!



Commodore's Spaghetti Dinner

5 pm Sunday June 11

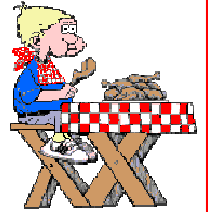
\$7.50/person, \$2.50 children 7-12,
 under 7 free

Independence Day Chicken Picnic

5 pm Tuesday July 4

\$5/person, \$2 children 7-12, under 7 free

Plus— please bring a salad or dessert to share



Trustees Special Catered Dinner

5 pm Sunday July 16

Menu to be announced



New Members Steak Dinner

5 pm Sunday July 23

\$10/person, \$4 children 7-12,
 under 7 free,

NEW MEMEBERS FREE

Plus— all please bring a salad or dessert to share

For All Meals: Sign up at the club or e-mail Deb Flaherty at DMaloney3401@gmail.com. You can also call Deb at 607-215-3284 or 315-928-6782.

Hosts and hostesses needed for the dinners and picnics at the club. Please sign up to host at least once each season. Hosting involves putting out tables, silverware and plates, placing centerpieces and salt and pepper on the tables, and cleaning up – but everyone at the club pitches in to help! A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board – please help!

Welcome New Members!

Rebecca Maurer, who lives in Baldwinsville, is an experienced sailor and a friend of Melissa Sieling. She has a kayak and laser, and is interested in sailing other club boats and racing. **Janine and Dan Sicchio**, from Pennellville, are former keelboat sailors who had a Hunter 23. They will be sailing our Hunter 22, joining our adult sailing classes and attending dinners and social events. **Tom and Cheryl Goodfellow and their children Ryan, Sarah and Erin** reside in Manlius. Experienced sailors who also have a "Party Barge" in the Thousand Islands, the Goodfellows will be sailing club boats and joining in our dinners and social events. **Bill and Jennifer Thieben and their sons Bailey and Ben** live in North Syracuse and are keeping their 16' daysailer in our drysail area. Ben participated in our Sailing School last summer and will take lessons again this year, and Bill will assist at Sailing School. **Ryan Miller** has sailed keelboats on Lake Erie in Buffalo and is moving to Liverpool. He is interested in using our club boats, racing and honing his sailing skills. OYC has extended the remainder of Ray O'Connell's 2017 membership to his dear friend, **John Gary**, a former member who resides in Central Square. A heartfelt welcome to you all!

In Memoriam: Ray O’Connell 1944-2017



Ray was an unlikely yacht club member with no boating experience. In 2007, he was rollerblading on the trail and dared his friend John Gary (who was on a bike) to go to our open house. Since Ray didn’t want to take off his skates, John went in alone, asking for a membership form for his “father waiting outside” (John was older than Ray). Ray joined, took some

sailing lessons, bought the green Widgeon from a former member; later he donated the boat to the club, realizing he was not agile enough for skippering. He always called his boat the “Widget”.

Ray found friendship and fulfillment at OYC. He was a board member, rear Commodore for two years, then this year requested to go back on the bridge. His real joy was working with the youth sailing program and Sea Scouts, helping launch and retrieve the boats. Picture Ray wading up to his waist to pull a small boat (and its passengers) off the rocks along the shore and back to our ramp.

Ray delighted in cooking and baking. His treats at potlucks were memorable--his banana tapioca pudding; lasagna with lamb or venison. He was honored to serve as judge for the Sea Scout Regatta cook-off contest. His last creation was his brownies for the Hot Stove Party, this time with coconut.

Ray was a constant, avid reader, and could often be found on the porch engrossed in a novel, sometimes while waiting for the floor to dry so he could wax and polish it, which he did each May before the commissioning.

Ray had an interesting life, revealed in bits of conversation over the years. Ray was adopted at a young age. A few years ago he started searching for his biological family, and discovered three half-sisters, a couple of whom lived nearby. He proudly introduced us to them at a club potluck a couple of years ago. He had a son in Florida, whom he visit-

ed fairly regularly, two other sons and a daughter. He served in the army, and earned a master’s degree in education and at one time was a schoolteacher, teaching special education.

Ray struggled somewhat financially, frequently needing to replace a old car or motorscooter that broke down. He finally resorted to taking the bus and asking for rides when he started putting his money into his small house, his pride and joy that he was fixing up inside and out, sharing his progress with his friends at OYC.

This year he finally bought a used car and was happy again to be able to drive to the club and not ask for rides. I had my last, long conversation with him at the Hot Stove Party May 13. He noted that he had a heart attack over 15 years ago, but no serious problems since then. He had intended to retire from his job at Airgas, delivering and servicing tanks, when he turned 73 this summer, but recently changed his mind, intending to work just one more year, when he would be free of debt.

We will remember Ray most for his big heart, always ready to help out wherever needed, with the sailing school and scouts, putting on his waders and helping install our seasonal dock, rinsing dishes and loading the dishwasher regularly after Sunday dinners, getting the barbecues ready and helping cook hamburgers, hotdogs or steaks. We will remember Ray for his wry sense of humor and his humble demeanor. Many of us will value so many memories of our friendship with him.

Ray and John Gary, the man who requested the membership form, were best friends. John called me May 20th to tell me Ray had passed away suddenly, apparently following a medical procedure. The OYC Board has extended the remainder of Ray’s 2017 membership to John.

Ray O’Connell was a man with a heart of gold big enough for everyone. In the end his own heart was failing him, and I know now there will always be an empty spot in my heart. We at OYC will miss him and remember him fondly.

—Tess Freedman

History Bytes (not bites) by Garry Klink, OYC Historian

Before there was the Splice, there were newsletters. Before newsletters, there was “The Bilge Pump”, published “every now and then”. The Bilge Pump was sent to members from 1937 to 1963. If anyone has any issues earlier than 1937 or later than 1963, I would love to have them for our Historical Collection. In the early years, The Bilge Pump was put out monthly and later yearly. I will be quoting from The Bilge Pump in future History Bytes columns.

A club before our Club: From 1917 to around 1930 (according to a bank book), there was an “Onondaga Boat Club”. I have the bank book and a roster of names from 1919. In the 1930’s our Yacht Club was interested in recruiting former members of the old club. If anyone knows anything about the Onondaga Boat Club of 1917-1930 please let me know. Thanks.
 Garry Klink, OYC Historian (garryoyc@gmail.com)

De Olde Editor’s Corner by Tess Freedman

I’m back as editor of the Splice for this year. Because of our family and travel commitments, in 2017 the Splice will be published bi-monthly instead of monthly. All events will be publicized weekly through email, on our website and Facebook page, so communications with members will be kept current.

Thanks so much to Paula Myers, who has been working with me on membership packets and the roster. She is updating our website with a fillable form for membership inquiries and applications, and has compiled a spreadsheet with member volunteer categories. Daughters Chelsey and Piper Myers also assisted with assembling the membership packets—thank you!

Please continue to send your articles and pictures for the Splice to tbfreedm@gmail.com

Spring 2017



A large turnout of members and Sea Scouts joined in at the “Opening Work Party” on a cold April 22nd, installing the hoist, yardarm, part of our seasonal dock and the porch blinds, getting the kitchen and fireplace room ready for the season and moving our small boats to the dry sail area. Our garden committee has been planting geraniums on the berm, moving hostas to the handicap ramp and preparing the front beds for our new native species garden, to be planted in early June.



Commodore Tom Ogden declared Onondaga Yacht Club “in commission for the 2017 season” at our **Commissioning Ceremony** May 21. Our Past Commodores stood at attention and many members huddled out of the wind on the porch as Rev. John Ferrie delivered an inspirational sailors blessing, our cannoneer Brian Colvin fired the cannon, and members of Sea Scout Ship 876 raised the flags and burgee, before we all enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Tabitha’s.



Sea Scout Ship 876

Boat Repairs and NERBOH by Skipper Robert Stone

Well, sailing season is upon us again and our Sea Scouts can get back to doing what they love to do the most... sailing. It's not that they haven't had a busy winter. In fact, quite the opposite!

In January we attended the Venturing Biathlon. This will be our 4th year now. This is an event where Sea Scouts and venture scouts ski and shoot. It is great fun. This year there was a twist with a cowboy theme. For the 1st time the scouts had the opportunity to shoot pistols. They were mostly revolvers, hence the cowboy theme.

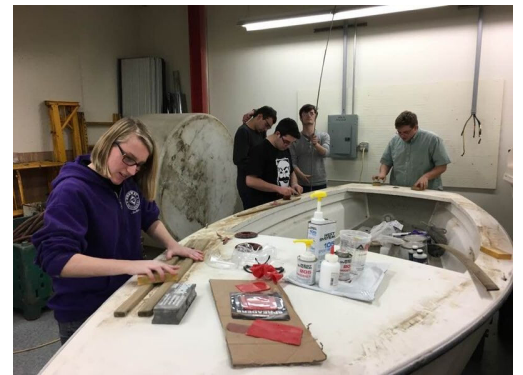


In March we attended NERBOH, the North East Region Bridge of Honor and Sea Ball. This is a wonderful event held in Swedesboro NJ. Scouts from all over the North East Region come together for a Banquet, where the new regional Boatswain is inducted into the role. There are also many other awards and recognitions including Regional Ship of Excellence award of which ship 876 was one of the recipients. The banquet is followed by the Sea Ball, where all of the scouts dress in their finest suits and ball gowns and dance into the early hours.



In February our Flotilla held its first of what we hope will be an annual training event at the Army Reserve center in Horseheads NY. This gave sea scouts from all over the region the opportunity to work on rank advancement, and earn some of those requirements that are difficult to do well at a unit level. Also in February, our Sea Scouts helped the Syracuse Sail and Power squadron at the CNY boat show.

All through the winter our Sea Scouts have been working on and learning the finer points of boat maintenance and repair under the watchful eye and expert guidance of Craig Thayer. They have been restoring two of the Blue Jays. Although the repairs are not complete, there is still plenty to do; you can see that once finished, they will look as good as new. I for one am looking forward to seeing the final result.



Sailing! Sailing! —by Greg Chapin



Five boats competed in our Memorial Day Silk Scarf Race to the lake outlet and back. Skipper Bill Pease, with Tom Flaherty as crew, sailed the OYC Hunter 22 to victory. Lou Levine and Mark Rupprecht served as race Committee. Thanks to George Hernandez for his great photos!



OYC Merchandise —by Gail Riina

You will always be in style with an OYC shirt and cap. They are light weight, wrinkle free and comfortable. Just \$26.00 - and for a good cause. Our 2017 silk scarf race winner, Bill Pease, is looking like the winner he is in his OYC shirt. Maybe wearing your own OYC shirt will help you catch him in the next race!?! Right now we have Men's and Women's shirts available, in most sizes. The ladies shirts have a great design as shown by two of our lovely active club members, Linda Ogden and Pat Urban. We also have caps and visors which are just \$11.00. This year I have agreed to coordinate our merchandise for the club. I will be going to our supplier soon - so if you have any requests for a special size or if you would like to see a new item please let me know. Call, send me a text (Gail Riina (315) 251-4739), or leave a note for me near the treasurer's box.

Don't forget we have Burgees for your Boat as well! 10"x15" \$24; 12"x18" \$27



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4 Sunday

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

June 8 Thursday

Syracuse Sail and Power Squadron (SSPS) meeting 7-9 pm

June 10 Saturday

Open House 11:00 am 2:00 pm

June 11 Sunday

Commodore's Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 pm

June 18 Sunday

Father's Day Covered Dish 5:00 pm

June 25 Sunday

Covered Dish 5:00 pm

Summer Sailstice Evening Sail 6:30 pm

July 4 Tuesday

Fun Sail Races 1:00 pm

Annual Independence Day Chicken Picnic at OYC — Eat 5:00 pm

Evening Fireworks on the lake

July 9 Sunday

Covered Dish— 5:00 pm

July 11,12,13 and July 18,19,20

Junior and Adult Sailing School, 6 sessions; (Tue., Wed., Thurs. each week) 5 pm to dusk

July 14 Friday

Youth Social Event

July 16 Sunday

Trustee's Special Catered Dinner 5:00 pm

July 19 Wednesday

Sailing School Free Sail 5:30 pm to dusk

July 23 Sunday

New Member Steak Dinner 5:00 pm

July 26 Wednesday

Sailing School Free Sail 5:30 pm to dusk

July 30 Sunday

Covered Dish 5:00 pm

August 6 —Past Commodore's Catered Dinner — 5:00 pm Hors D'oeuvres; 5:30 pm dinner

~2017 OYC Officers~

Commodore: Tom Ogden

Vice Commodore: Ed Bambrick

Rear Commodore: Debra Flaherty

Secretary: Brian Colvin

Treasurer: Jerry Illowsky

Immediate Past Commodore: Tess Freedman

Trustees: Ron Higgins, Pete Kitt, Gail Riina, Lou Levine, Roger Bowers

Editors: Tess Freedman, Linda Ogden