

Windward Newsletter

Issue #2015-B

Editor: Gary Robertson

October 2015

OWASCO YACHT CLUB

From the Commodore - Jon Carnes

Hello all, I sincerely hope you all really enjoyed our Club this summer. We certainly had great weather.

For me, the season was far too short, and I did not spend nearly enough time on the water, or even next to it. But some comfort is found in knowing that our Club will be there for seasons to come.

However, that would not be the case if it wasn't for the work of your board of directors who work very hard behind the scenes to keep things sailing, cooking, swinging or merely maintained and standing. Please let these dedicated folks know you appreciate their work.

Please mark your calendars for the fall clean-up. If you have not been down lately to help, I strongly urge you to take the time to help make quick work of our club clean-up. Maybe you will meet someone new, or maybe you will notice how beautiful it is down there in the fall. Also, mark your calendar for the OYC ANNUAL MEETING, on November 9, at 7 pm, at the BOCES campus. This meeting is meant to inform you of OYC's finances and what new rules have been put in place.

Lastly, as you now know, plans are underway to extend the Club's use and activities beyond the traditional season. This too, takes much coordination and I urge you to consider attending these events. They are sure to be a hit.



OYC 92nd Annual Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2015
7:00 p.m. at BOCES
West Genesee St Rd, Auburn

Special Guest Speaker Charlie Greene
Owasco Watershed Lake Association

From the Treasurer - Rich Knaul

Cooler weather and shorter days is a reminder that winter will soon be upon us. It seem like just yesterday that we were getting the Club ready for the opening party for the summer of 2015. This summer sure wasn't one of the best on record, but it was not one of the worst either. We should all be thankful that we have such a great place to go in the summer to enjoy our beautiful lake and to spend time with others, having fun or just relaxing.

Many thanks to our employees for helping to make our visits to the Club enjoyable and safe. Rich Hamberger for keeping the Club in tip top shape; lifeguards: Brigid Cotter, Tyler Mason, Celina Rescott, Jonathan Hartnett, Hannah Foster, Jacob Whiting, Sheldon Ryan and Cameron Buell who filled in at the end of the season. Thanks to all of them and the best as they head back to college and high school.

Just a reminder, the Club is open for your use throughout the year. In the spring and fall, there are many days before the Club officially opens or after it closes when you will find members enjoying the lake from the deck, or even having a picnic. The bathrooms are open from about the first of April until about the first of November (depending on weather) when the water is turned off and all the lines drained. When the water is off, the buildings will be locked and the alarms on. Use in the winter may require a walk down from the highway, but members in the past have used the Club in winter for sledding, ice skating, ice fishing and even a picnic. If you do go to the Club anytime when the Steward is not there, and find anything out of order, please call one of the Board members and let them know what the problem is. Their numbers can be found in your copy of the *Member's Handbook*.

Thank you Louise, for keeping the website up to date and posting all of those pictures showing our members enjoying the Club and having fun. The dedicated members of the Board keep the Club humming; many thanks to Jon Carnes, our Commodore, to Ellen Cotter making sure everything in the swim area is run according to the beach safety plan; to Mark Querns for keeping an eye on the Steward and the grounds; to Ken Rescott and Jon Carnes for managing the waterfront, to Marcus Wilson for finding and guiding our kitchen manager; to Adele Keegan again for entertainment; to Jim Kusche for trying to provide the right amount of wind for Wednesday and Sunday sailboat races; to Gary Robertson for the *WINDWARD* and to Gary and Bob Sloan for the sailing lessons; to JJ Butera for keeping the buildings in shape; and to Beth Butera for keeping income and expenses in order when I am off to Florida or visiting grandchildren. There are others not on the board, like Don Devine, Bob and Matt Sloan, and Steve Vincent who accomplish a multitude of things around the Club and we never see them doing it; and last but not least, to Louise Wilson, for her work as secretary. Please contact Jon if you would be interested in serving on the board. Thanks to Pam and Paul, of CC's Tavern for keeping us fed this summer, and many thanks to all the members who chip in to help make this Club the great Club it is.

I do not want to bore you with the finances of the Club, but if anyone is interested in how your dues are spent, and where all the money goes, please come to the annual meeting or just ask me. The only time that information is forced on everyone is at the annual meeting and maybe that's the reason there are usually only about 30 members who show up. The Board is open to any and all constructive suggestions how they might improve and/ or add activities that would be of interest to members. Please take the time to give it some thought.



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Words from the Scribe - Louise Wilson

It has been a bitter-sweet season at OYC. We have welcomed new members, made new friends and reconnected with people we just don't see enough of. We have also had the Club flag at half-mast in honor of some wonderful members we have lost this year.



These individuals were cherished friends and great members of the Owasco Yacht Club. Our sincere condolences go out to their families and we thank them for their contributions to our Club and our community. **Andrew Fusco**, longtime Auburn attorney and past Auburn City Court Judge, died unexpectedly March 19. Andy served a four-year term as an assistant district attorney for Cayuga County. He had a passion for sports, a fan of auto racing, was a music buff and antique car enthusiast. He and his wife, Andrea have been OYC members for 26 years.

Betsy Walter passed away on April 15. At the time of her passing, Betsy was OYC's oldest continuous member with 56 years of membership. The Walters joined the Club in May 1958. At her 90th birthday last year, Betsy reported that what was most important in her life were the five F's: Family, Faith, Friends, Food and Fun. Her husband Erich, was Club Treasurer for a number of years and when he passed away in 1973, Betsy took on the job. We will miss seeing her smiling face with the south end ladies.



Earline Sorensen was another longtime OYC member having joined in the spring of 1967. Earline was a teacher in Auburn public and parochial schools for many years and was a founding member of the Auburn Education Foundation. Earline was involved with the Community Preservation Committee's restoration of Willard Chapel. Earline passed away April 17 after a long illness.

Charles Card, though he was a relatively new member, lent a hand at OYC clean up days. He enthusiastically pitched in with his companion, Janet Carroll. On May 17 Charlie passed away suddenly. Charlie was involved with many youth organizations and enjoyed coaching and refereeing.



Bradley Wilson lost his one-year battle with cancer on July 23. Brad and I have been members for about 20 years and always found OYC to be the place to escape to when our "batteries" needed recharging. Brad was an avid Hobie Cat sailor, certified professional ski instructor, ballroom dance enthusiast and world traveler. He was the immediate past OYC Commodore and served in that position for three seasons.

Walter Wasserman passed away peacefully on August 29 after a brief illness. Walt had a distinguished career as a Cooperative Extension Agent and specialist in milk marketing. Walt was a board member and volunteer at the Daniel Parrish Witter Agricultural Museum in Syracuse and the Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum in Auburn. He was an elder at his church, Westminster Presbyterian, and a long-time member of the Owasco Zoning Board. Walt was OYC Commodore in 1981 and he and his wife, Sylvia have been OYC members since 1972.



From the Grounds Director - Mark Querns

Another summer has come and gone, again, too quickly. Once the spring rains receded, summer was awesome, and so was September. I hope you were able to come up to the club and enjoy it. Whether you just sat by the lake, read a book, paddled your kayak, or just watched a sunset, I want to thank everyone who made the effort to attend and enjoy our wonderful natural resource.

To get the most out of your membership you just have to get here, sometimes that is the hardest part. Just remember next time, when you think it's too hot out to go anywhere (as you're sitting in your air conditioned cave), that it's always at least 10 degrees cooler at the lake and more relaxing than staring at four walls and a computer screen. It's all good!

Hope you all enjoyed the club, and we will see you soon. One shout out to our Steward, Rich Hamberger, excellent job maintaining our buildings and grounds this season. Thank You!

P.S. I bet you can get a good deal on charcoal now, stock up for next year and try something new.....pack a picnic basket, a cooler, and actually cook over a live fire. I know that's a novel concept these days with fast food and gas grills, but try it.



Mark, the grounds guy.

From the Swim Area

We would like to thank **Ellen Cotter** for the great job she has done as Waterfront Director for more than five years. Her experience and conscientiousness has been a benefit to our members. **Theresa Mason** has stepped in to take over the directorship

From the Waterfront Director - Ken Rescott

The fall had been very dry and boats were difficult to get off hoists. Looking at the sailboats and they are all high and dry. Got to love the fluctuating lake levels.

By the time you read this, hopefully, we have had another successful hoist and floating dock removal. The shore cleanup should be happening later in October or early November, in which case we will be removing kayak racks from shore and getting club boats put away for winter.

Last spring, we had ice come up and push stored catamarans somewhat and needed a small crew to move them. Hopefully, this year, we have prepared for this. I hope this past summer everyone enjoyed the waterfront and those that had the opportunity to take out the club kayaks, new Sunfish sailboat, paddle boat, or the canoes, enjoyed this time. I will look forward to another winter and, hopefully, some snowshoeing at the club and/or getting out on the ice. See you next year.



From the Sailing – Jim Kusche

We had a good Wednesday Nite series this year, but racing participation in general remains low. I have to thank Steve Vincent and Derek MacKenzie for keeping Wednesday night going by being there every time there was wind. We were able to get off 20 races this year. Everyone won races this year and just to spread it all around, we all came in last too. The wind did not cooperate for the Sunday Series. We've had some bad years for wind in the past, but I cannot remember a year where Sundays were this bad. When the forecast is 0-2 it not a good day to sail. Needless to say, we did not have enough wind (or sailors) to complete the Sunday Series.

However, our youth and adult sailing classes continue to prosper. Our beginner and intermediate classes are full. Our advanced class is getting better and better as they get more experience sailing the Lasers and Hobie Cats. I want to thank Bob Sloan and Gary Robertson for all the time and effort they put into this successful program. OYC also thanks Wells College for the loan of their Sunfish boats for our classes.

From the Kitchen Director - Marcus Wilson

I hope everyone had a great time at OYC this summer. I would like to thank **John Hurd** and his staff from **CC's Tavern** for operating the kitchen this season especially Pam & Paul. Thank you to all of the members who came out to support the kitchen. Judging from the feedback I received throughout the season, most members enjoyed the food, especially the Friday night dinners and special buffets.

As we start planning more activities inside the clubhouse outside of the "normal" operating season, I thought it was time make some changes inside the clubhouse. If you have not noticed, we have new furniture near the fireplace, high top tables and new tablecloths. Stay tuned for more improvements.

Next year I will start taking orders for Ship Store items in May. Purchase your OYC merchandise early and proudly wear them all summer long. Thank you all for your support this year and I look forward to seeing you next year.



From the Social Director – Adele Keegan

I don't want to believe our season is over...and of this writing on September 27th, it isn't. I am still swimming in the lake and last night stayed until 9:40 p.m. under the pavilion with a campfire, my new green "Jim Bye Beer Blast 2015" hoodie and enjoying the 20 or so members who shared their crockpots filled with their delicious offerings. Thanks to Sue Best, who organized this event. She brought song sheets so we could all sing with her banjo ukulele accompaniment. Sue, you continue to be the BEST!

October brings a Gourmet Wine-tasting Dinner. Dr. Konstantin Frank will be in our glasses, with Chef Floyd House, in our kitchen. The 31st of the month brings back our Halloween party, hosted by the Abdelaziz family, with "Good Time Charlie" (Jane Stebbins) as D.J.

By the time you get this, it may have happened. I hope you attended at least one of these events. If you were not aware, you haven't been reading your e-mails, or looking at our website.

We are planning to extend our season to 5-months with a new soft opening on Memorial Day Weekend. We will have spring opening events for you and your guests. Rules for guests will not apply until official opening. Show off your Club. Your guests might want to own a piece of the Club as you do.

We had, and are still having, a well-attended season. Your Board works hard and long to make everything happen. We are always open to ideas and volunteers to give us a hand.

I have many of you to thank, as I have needed and will continue to need much help in my endeavors. Most of all our Steward, Rich Hamberger, who always goes above and beyond. The kitchen workers who delivered food lakeside to me, the friends who help me "lug and tug" daily...especially Mary Ellen Carr. Louise Wilson, who makes flyers, puts my events on the web, sends member e-mails, advises me with her reality logic when my enthusiasm gets the best of me. My ideas for the Club get crazy....ask Rich Knaul. Rich has taught me how to be careful with my Club spending. I came in under budget this season....but Rich, in the name of the recently departed, Yogi Berra,"it ain't over 'til it's over". Rich, thanks for your patience, and all the answers to my many questions that you *always* have the answers to. Commodore Jon, thanks for your sensitivity in helping me through some tough Club issues. I value your support and kindnesses. And thanks to the Club members who went to the heavenly Yacht Club this season for your support for my ideas. I enjoy serving you....here's hoping the winter will be kind. As ever, Adele - adelekeegan@gmail.com

Guest Policy

Effective June 21, 2015

Members have preferential use of Club facilities.
However, we welcome guests under the guidelines listed below.
If a guest wishes to attend more often than allowed by this policy,
members are encouraged to sponsor their guests for membership.

- All guests must be accompanied by a member-in-good-standing (having all dues for the current year paid in full.)
- **Guests may only attend two (2) social functions or general visits per season regardless of who the inviting member is.**
- **Guests should sign the Guest Book** located on the table across from the Food Service Window upon arrival at each visit.
- This policy pertains to local guests.
- Out-of-town houseguests (relatives and friends who live more than 50-miles from OYC) may enjoy full membership privileges during their stay when accompanied by the member.
- **Members who are currently on leave are considered guests and this policy applies.**
- Sailors with non-member crew and members with boats may take guests on their boats at any time, but general use of the Club is limited to two visits per season.
- Guests on Game Day Wednesday (formerly Ladies' Day) are not counted as a guest visit.
- Under special circumstances, the board of directors may make exceptions to the rules.

To be fair to all members, please adhere to the Guest Policy.

Leave of Absence Policy

Effective October 1, 2015

*We understand that there are times when members may have
the need to temporarily suspend their Club membership.
If this is the case, the membership should contact the
Club Treasurer to submit a Request for Leave of Absence.*

- Send written notice to the Club Treasurer with your request prior to the start of a new season.
- Members may go on leave for two years.
- At the start of each year, a \$50 Leave Fee will be collected by the Club Treasurer.
- At the end of the two-year period, an extension *may* be granted with board approval for special circumstances.
- On the third year of leave, the membership will terminate if no extension for special circumstance has been granted.
- Members on Leave have no rights and are considered guests and will follow the Guest Policy guidelines.
- Members on Leave are removed from the Hoist Wait List and relinquish their shore or mooring space.
- If a member returns 3-5 years after leaving, without a granted extension – one half of the Initiation Fee will be charged.
- If a member returns 5 or more years after leaving – full Initiation Fee will be charged.
- Members who are officially on leave prior to October 1, 2015 are grandfathered in and Previous Leave Policy will be in effect for those members only.