

# *Windward Newsletter*

Issue #2015-A

Editor: Gary Robertson

June 2015

The logo for the Owasco Yacht Club features the text "OWASCO YACHT CLUB" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue and white wavy banner that resembles a flag or a stylized wave. The banner is white in the center and blue on the sides, with a slight 3D effect.

## **From the Commodore—Jon Carnes**

Welcome back one and all!

The Club is looking fantastic and the warm weather has started off great after our rather extraordinary winter! I am anxious to see the Club fill with summer action. I hope you are too. Planning has been under way to make this another wonderful and memorable Owasco Yacht Club summer.

So pull your swim trunks out from your bottom drawer.... dust off the picnic basket and check your provisions.....hitch up the boat and blow out the spiders...and restock your favorite summer beverage.

YOUR Club is open!!!!

I am excited to meet new and current members who share the same love of the lakes that I do. Please make sure to introduce yourself to me (I cannot say with certainty I will remember everyone's name, but I will try). And, please make sure to introduce yourself to other members too as this makes for a more friendly and welcoming environment for everyone.

So now without further adieu ..... mow your lawn and jump in the lake to wash off the dusty sweat, or put in that 'full day' then meet the family and friends for a much deserved cookout, or scrape and paint that house knowing the lake sunset will show you the true colors, and finally navigate your way to OYC, where the open waters will melt your cares away.

Laugh, share and enjoy!

## **From the Club Treasurer—Rich Knaul**

What does it mean to be a member of the Owasco Yacht Club?

As a member of the Owasco Yacht Club, you are part-owner of 7 acres of coveted lakefront property on Owasco Lake. Your initiation fee entitles you to a share of the Club that has a current full market value of over \$800,000. If there are 200 members that means your \$500 investment is worth around \$4000. Unfortunately, most members never think of the Owasco Yacht Club outside of the ten-week social season of the Club; you actually have year-round use of the facility. From the time the water is turned on in the spring, until it is turned off around the first of November, the facility is yours to enjoy.

For the more hearty members, you can even enjoy the Club during the winter with sledding, skating, ice fishing or even a party in the clubhouse while gathered around the fireplace.

Membership in the Owasco Yacht Club is a 12-month commitment even though most members make the most of their membership in the ten-week social season. Before anyone drives down the hill, property and school taxes and insurance eat up \$29,000 and \$9000, respectively. If there are 200 members that amounts to \$190 of your dues. Come summer, payroll for the steward and lifeguards adds another \$23,300 to the budget or \$117 more of your dues. Current and future maintenance, utilities, program and miscellaneous expenses add \$152 per membership for an overall total of \$459. What a deal: for less than \$9 per week you own property on Owasco Lake with most of the advantages of living on the lake without any of the headaches. Ideally, the Club needs to maintain a membership level of 200 or more to produce a budget that adequately supports the Club today with an eye on the future.

As of today (June 5) there have been fifteen resignations and six new members plus one returning member who has been away for a number of years. New members are Mickey Belosi and Jim Brady; Mike Wall; Tim and Wanda Sincebaugh with children Katherine and Lauren; Sydney Murinka; Justin and Danielle Wood with children Kellan and Ailey; Brian Querns and Rashelle Glover; Bahgat and Annette Abdelaziz and son Chase. Please extend them all a welcome aboard. May they all have many years of enjoyment at the Owasco Yacht Club?

Here I go again, but I can't emphasize enough why we ask for the first half of dues or resignations by March 31—it is so the Board can plan and budget accordingly. There are also other activities that your volunteer Board needs to do to be ready for the Opening Day in June and all we ask is that you help us do our job. The annual "Handbook" is a very big job to get ready for delivery at the Opening Day party and it makes our job a lot easier when every member has paid the final payment by May 31.

In case you didn't know, the Club Treasurer is responsible for maintaining an accurate membership list, with names, including children, addresses, phone numbers and emails. I can only do that with your help. Since most of the Club communications are done by email, it is absolutely necessary that you notify me of a change in your email address. Please let me know when there have been additions to your family and when a son or daughter has left the nest. Since I very rarely receive word when a child is over 21 and has finished college, I usually drop them after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Also, if you reach the age of a senior member (65), let me know.

If you had a boat at the Club last year, you were probably billed for it already. Ken Rescott has a very difficult job inventorying all of the boats and comparing his list with my list of boats already billed to see if we missed any. Please keep Ken informed about your boat and make sure that there is an ID sticker on it so that we know who it belongs to. See Ken if you need a sticker. If you purchase a boat from another OYC member, make sure the seller's ID sticker is removed and yours attached. The sticker also helps identify the boat in case of an emergency (such as high water, high winds or other mishaps). ID's are created from the first three letters of your last name plus the month and year that you joined.

Many times during the year members will ask "if the Club is tax exempt and can they make tax deductible gifts to the OYC?" The answer is "no" to both questions. The OYC is a non-profit corporation (IRS designation 501 (c) 7) and is not liable for income taxes, but must pay property, school and sales taxes.

The Club has to file a 990-EZ form with the IRS each year in May. The form is open for public inspection and is available at the *Guide Star* web site. It usually takes about 3 or 4 months to appear online. Prior year's forms are also available. The form has to be made available to anyone who asks to see it. If you would like to review it, please let me know. If you have any questions about the 990-EZ form or any other Club financial information, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can contact me at my email address ([richk234@verizon.net](mailto:richk234@verizon.net)) or use the Club email address ([owascoyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:owascoyachtclub@gmail.com)).

Looking forward to another great summer at the Owasco Yacht Club.

## From the Club Secretary—Louise Wilson

As another season officially kicks off at OYC, we're looking forward to making sure our membership knows what takes place behind the scenes at our Club. The board of directors has had many meetings to revisit and update a number of policies. This has been done to improve and enhance the Club experience for all of us. Some of the policies that have been updated are:

- Guest Policy and Guest Sign-In Book (also found in this edition)
- Private Party Application and Guidelines
- How to Become a Member of OYC
- How to Sponsor a Member
- New Sponsorship Incentive Program

These updates have been posted on the website and are also available there in a downloadable format. For those who prefer not to use a computer, a binder has been put together with copies of these documents. They can be found on the table across from the Kitchen Window for your reference.

We are also in the process of updating the Leave of Absence Policy and the Club Rules and Regulations to make them more current to today's needs.

As secretary, one of my responsibilities is handling new member requests. To sponsor a friend, send the appropriate information to [www.owascoyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:www.owascoyachtclub@gmail.com) with "Sponsorship Request" in the subject line. If you don't have access to email, you can phone the information to me at the number listed in the Member's Handbook. Requests are acted upon at our monthly board meetings, but during the season we will try to accommodate your request more frequently as needed.

Speaking of the Handbook, if your name or phone number is incorrect or omitted, please let me know. I can assure you that errors are never intentional! A lot of work and thought goes into the production of the Member's Handbook each year. We want to make it easy for members to find information they may need about the club, so we hope you keep it handy and refer to it as needed.

Brad and I are also the Club webmasters. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.owascoyachtclub.com](http://www.owascoyachtclub.com) often so you don't miss out on any of our upcoming events, news, information and photos. We do our best to keep content fresh and updated regularly. To further enhance our social media, Marcus Wilson has set us up on Facebook so you can also find us at [www.facebook.com/owascoyachtclub](http://www.facebook.com/owascoyachtclub).

Lastly, don't forget about the *Member Photo ID Book*. It will be placed on the table across from the Kitchen service window for your perusal. The intent is to help us have a visual ID of our memberships so we can get to know each other. I'm still on my mission to get *each and every family represented* in this book. If you're not in it, or are in need of an update, please send me a photo in jpeg format, or simply put a print in the inside cover of the book with your name(s) listed on the back and I will insert it for you. Also, as many of you like to tease me, I pretty much always have one or more cameras with me at all times and I will be more than happy to take a quick snapshot – all you have to do is ask!

Louise & Brad

## **From the Sailing Director—Jim Kusche**

Our racing series has fallen off dramatically in the last couple years, so this year will be somewhat uncertain to start off. My hope is we can interest some of the lesson participants into a weekly evening to continue things they learned from Gary and Bob. Much more of a “sailing” event than a “racing” one. The Wells’ sunfish remain for a few weeks after lessons so we should have enough to go around. Member input is very welcome on how to promote more sailing activities.

Based upon the survey results, we will place a better emphasis on making members aware of the sail boats OYC has, how to rig them, and some tips on how to sail them. The first of these will be Sat., June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am, and cover rigging of the Hobie 14s. I’ll also go over a few tacking tips as this tends to be frustrating the first few times. If the weather cooperates we can also go on the water. I’ll try to schedule this a few times throughout the year.

The Club did purchase another Sunfish to replace the waterlogged one. I haven’t seen it yet, but Bob Sloan says it’s in great condition. We can also go over rigging this on the 27<sup>th</sup> if there is interest. The Club has (2+) Hobie 14s, (2) Sunfish, and a Laser for Club members to use.

Gary Robertson and Bob Sloan will be doing their excellent lessons again in July, details are below. They are rapidly coming up, so get your reservations in. You can copy the application off the OYC website. They will start the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>, for beginners and intermediates. The week of July 13<sup>th</sup> will be for intermediates and advanced. Adult lessons will start on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm on the deck.

Gary Robertson is going to have an “Open Sail” on Sunday mornings from 10 am to noon for anyone, especially those who have taken the OYC sailing lessons, to go sailing on the OYC boats. Gary will be there to help rig boats and give sailing hints starting July 19 and going through August 9.

Here is a list of the sailing activities at the Club:

June 27, Saturday, at 10:00 am—Hobie 14 information and rigging session  
July 6, Monday, thru the week, starting at 10:00 am—Sailing lessons for beginners and intermediates  
July 13, Monday, thru the week, starting at 10:00 am—Sailing lessons for intermediates and advanced  
July 16, Thursday, 5:30 pm—Adult sailing lessons start  
July 19, Sunday, from 10:00 am to noon—Open Sail for those interested in sailing on OYC boats  
July 26, Sunday—Open Sail  
August 2, Sunday—Open Sail

## **From the Grounds Director—Mark Querns**

Hello again. Here we are, welcoming in summer 2015.

Our spring clean-up day was a success. Good weather and great volunteers showed up to allow the bulk of the work to be done. I want to thank everyone who made the effort to contribute their time to help get our grounds, clubhouse, and waterfront in order. Those that stuck it out were rewarded with hot dogs and beverages after their hard work. Thanks so much.

We have a new Club Steward this year, Rich Hamberger. Rich is no stranger to the Yacht Club, He spent many summers here as a kid and as a former Club Steward back in the day. Show him some love.

I also hope you make the time to spend some time up here at the lake. As a dues-paying member in good standing, it is hard to imagine a better deal than to share our piece of lake property year round for what we

pay. Bring your family, bring your ideas, and bring your picnic basket on out to the Club, and anything else you want. The important thing is to just bring it.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have any mad skills to contribute, do not hesitate to volunteer them and/or any ideas to improve things, just talk to me. I hope you enjoy the Club. Have a great summer.

markquerns@verizon.net

### **From the Waterfront Director—Ken Rescott**

The season has begun with some up and down weather. The floating dock and hoists went in Saturday morning, May 9<sup>th</sup>. I had a great crew to help and everything went relatively smoothly. Unfortunately, one of our anchor blocks broke apart over the winter, but luckily, the members who work on the dock had the insight to have another block in the water by the mole, just in case this happened. Through the engineering feats of Rich Knaul, Steve Vincent, Jon Carnes, Bob Faynor and myself, the new block was put in place 3 weeks later and our floating dock is in place.

The Club now has two sit-on-top kayaks, an orange one from last season and a red one just purchased. They will most likely be right in front of the clubhouse by the kayak racks. Please make sure you have a life jacket on when taking one out. Remember the sign-out book is in the clubhouse on the table by the ordering window. Also, let the lifeguards know you are taking one out. This also applies for the Sunfishes, catamarans, paddle boat, and canoes.

Reminder: We do have a canoe/kayak dolly that is by the tree near the canoes; it is designed to be used by one or two people. You can do a web search on how to use it and/or I can meet you up at the Club to give a demonstration. Paddles for kayaks and canoes are kept under the deck in front of the clubhouse. There are a few more specific rules for use of Club boats that can be seen on the OYC website.

All boats and trailers should be removed from parking lots by Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, in order to provide parking in the upper lot. This also pertains to the boats on the east side of the lower parking lot.

### **From the Kitchen Director—Marcus Wilson**

Let me start by thanking Adele for serving a dual role as Kitchen and Social Director. She can relax a little this year and focus on that busy social calendar that she has lined up for us. I would also like to thank Ron Darby for operating our kitchen for the last two years. For those of you who may not have heard, Ron will not be returning this season. I am in the process of finalizing details with our new kitchen operator, so please watch out for an email coming soon.

Last fall, the board sent out a survey to get some feedback on member experiences at the Club. I was particularly interested in the feedback pertaining to the kitchen and will use that information when working with the new contractor this season. If anyone has comments or concerns this year, good or bad, please let me know immediately. The best way to reach me would be via email @ [marcwil39@gmail.com](mailto:marcwil39@gmail.com).

Again, please watch out for an email coming soon with details regarding the kitchen this season. Thanks.

Marcus Wilson

## From the Social Director—Adele Keegan

The season has had a great start! I stopped by the Club on Memorial Day and many members were grilling and quite a few were in and on the water. This leads me to believe that we might start our social activities on Memorial weekend next season. We planned an early start with a Crock Pot Party on June 6 followed by Commodore's Meet and Greet on June 12. My creative and versatile assistant, Jim Bye, and I are also hoping to have some activities planned for the fall and winter as well. This is *your* Club and by all means enjoy it for 365 days a year if you can get down the road.

The official start of our swim season and Grand Opening kicks off June 20 with MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR playing by your request. Also, our dear friend Father Enright will be on board to bless our Club, our boats, our lake, and of course ... all of our members too. We are asking for another safe season.

We have booked some great music and honored your requests for alternate Saturdays. I have booked some Friday nights as well, with the first being June 26 with Jon Peterson's band, YOU JUST GOTTA. Music starts at 6:30 pm. Our first Brunch is Sunday, June 28, featuring Lenny Nocilly's JAZZITUDE playing from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm.

Our first GAME DAY (formerly Ladies' Day) is once again under the able direction of Barb Avino. LUNCHEON will be served on Wednesday, June 24, at noon with one set price for all attending even if you don't buy the "special" and order from the window. This is because participants will be served at their table. You will be able to partake in drinks and dessert. (Brown bagging is not in style.)

JULY'S events start Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> with BOB PIORUN and DR. DON WESTEE crooning some Sinatra favorites at 6:30 pm until the fireworks begin. Next up is the DIANA JACOBS BAND on Saturday, July 11, with dinner and music. We will be reaching out to the community and honoring teachers that night. In future seasons we will honor other groups serving our community. So bring a teacher as your guest to thank them for educating our students. JULIE HOWARD will entertain at brunch on Sunday, July 19, and DONNA COLTON will wow us on Saturday, July 25.

In AUGUST, we are delighted to feature JOE WHITING at Sunday brunch on August 2. Then, the NEVERLY BROTHERS, Saturday, August 8. On Saturday, August 15, Jim and I will host WHINER'S WOES, with Jim doing most of the work with my encouragement ... he's a great guy! The SWING KATS and all their jazzzzz will entertain us on Saturday, August 22. We will wrap up August entertainment with Sam Chindamo's talented group, GENERATION GAP on Friday night, August 28.

The last booking I have as of this writing is BYE'S BEER BLAST on September 6, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend ... a favorite event for everybody.

We will announce more good stuff into the fall and winter too and we'll keep you posted. If you want to suggest an event and help work on it we are VERY interested. Right now we are looking for a family to step up and work on FAMILY GAME NIGHT. We also need a young family or a group of families to step up and organize a LITTLE KIDZ GAME DAY. The older kiddos in the Club love to help and so do I. Jim and I also need help to bring back the HALLOWEEN PARTY. Social events need more than two people working on them. It is our Club—you can help.

I thank Marcus Wilson for stepping up and taking the Kitchen Directorship from me. Last season I had to take on two directorships as we had no volunteers. Any of you can help out a little, it feels good, and it is appreciated.

Remember: a guest may only come twice a season regardless of who invites them. This is a NEW POLICY this year. If they would like to come more often, we would love to have you sponsor them for membership.

Support your Club events, as that is an inkling of what we use to repeat that group or that event; help out at least once a season if at all possible. You can call me at: 315.515.3400 or 315.277.0034 or email me at [adelekeegan@gmail.com](mailto:adelekeegan@gmail.com) and you know you can usually find me enjoying “Keegan's Point”.

And don't forget: RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL EVENTS. Watch the Club bulletin board and website for details on how to make a reservation, as well as an email that will be sent to all members.

As ever, Adele

### **From the Swim Director—Ellen Cotter**

I think many of us, those who stayed in central New York at least, would agree that this past winter was a doozy. It was long, very, very cold, and bound many of us to our homes because the snow was too deep, and the cold too biting, to enjoy much of the outdoors. And as I write, we are all now on the roller coaster that is spring here. We're in shorts and flip-flops one day, only to be digging out the now-hated fleece zip-up when the temperature dips down to the upper 40s and 50s. I can scarcely believe my eyes when I look at the calendar and realize there are only three short weeks before Opening Day at the Club.

Right now, the swim area is in winter mode. But in the next three weeks, much preparation will take place, mostly by volunteer Club members. The swim dock will take its place in the water, the leaves will be raked and swept away, the weed mats will be laid out, the stairs will be shoved into place, the dock stairs and ladder will be mounted, the lifeguard chair will be bolted down, the signs will be hung, the swim lines and corner buoy anchors will be dropped and tied, the rafts will be cleaned, repaired, and floated into place and anchored, the chairs and lounges will be set around, the lifeguard boat will be cleaned and placed on its skid, the backboard and rescue tubes will be inspected and repaired/replaced as necessary, the lifeguard box will be filled with first aid supplies, the lifeguards will be interviewed and will fill out employment forms and provide proof of certification, schedules will be created, the water will be tested, and the swim area will be inspected by an officer of the NYS Department of Health. So as you read this, those three weeks have evaporated, but much has been accomplished and the swim area is ready for enjoyment! If only we had little Yacht Club elves who could take care of it all...

On another note, I read with interest the comments collected in the member survey this winter, especially of course, those having to do with the swim area. My impression from a couple of the comments is that it may not be general knowledge among members that the swim area is regulated by the NYS Department of Health and that many of the OYC swim area “rules,” such as where the rafts are placed, where flotation devices are allowed, the number of lifeguards on duty, are actually determined by the rules governing beaches. We welcome ideas that will improve the swim area and we will work to determine whether we can meet a request within the guidelines of the NYS DOH beach regulations.

One more thing, just a friendly reminder to our members with children: Please be sure to accompany your child *to the swim area* if your child is under 12. We cannot allow children under 12 in the water without a responsible adult *present*, and it isn't enough that the responsible adult is somewhere at the Club. The lifeguards do not always know who belongs to whom, and they cannot leave the swim area to find an adult. Looking forward to seeing you all in the swim area and to the sights and sounds of the Yacht Club!

Cheers, Ellen



Revised  
OYC Guest Policy  
Effective June 211, 2015

Members have preferential use of Club facilities. However, we welcome guests under the guidelines listed below. If a guest wished 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.

### **New Membership Incentive**

The Owasco Yacht Club board of directors work hard to keep costs down and the dues affordable for its members. Each year we have a few members resign, relocate, or go on leave from the OYC. We need to sustain and grow our membership in order to maintain steady membership income.

One of the best sources of potential new members is YOU!

Invite your family and friends to spend the day at the Club and encourage them to join.

Members in good standing (having current dues paid in full)

will receive a \$50 food chit to be used in our kitchen during the season it was issued.

If the new member joins, upon receipt of the application and applicable fees by the treasurer, the sponsoring member will receive their chit.

### **OYC NOW HAS WiFi**

For use by our members!

**Service will be available from**

**June 15 – September 15**

The network address will be emailed to members.