



"THE WINDWARD" JAN. 2021:

Pre-Annual Meeting Issue

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## Year End Message from Commodore Louise Wilson

Our 2020 season has undeniably been one of many challenges. We have had to adjust and then re-adjust everything we did as well as how we did it. As the Commodore and as a board of directors, we had to make difficult choices and decisions, all of which were made in the best interest of our membership. We have said it many times over the past several months, but the safety of our membership combined with the fiscal responsibility of our club have been our primary concerns. On both of those counts we appreciate the support shown by our member-owners. Despite all the negatives of 2020, first and foremost we had our own private haven to escape to anytime we needed to flee the crazy world around us.

A word that keeps coming to mind is *resilience*. Each of us have found ways to still have an enjoyable OYC season. Sure, we missed group social events like the annual beer tasting, the summer membership meeting and the 16 bands we had booked, but there were also many positives. We found innovative ways to welcome our new members, even if we really didn't know what they look like wearing masks.

It certainly looked and sounded different than any season that came before it, but that wasn't always a bad thing. We heard the sounds of laughter from children on the playground. We heard the crackle of flames from evening bonfires. We saw families and friends old and new grilling and picnicking at safe distance. We found new ways to enjoy the Lake, whether it was the simple pleasure of playing with a remote-control sailboat or by making new friends to meet and kayak with. The swim area brought respite from record breaking heat, and there was always a sunset to enjoy. It was a great change of scene from all the painting, closet and drawer cleaning and home renovations so many of us took this opportunity to tackle.

Many people worked remotely, and what better place to do it than overlooking beautiful Owasco Lake?

What will 2021 bring? The Magic 8 Ball says: "Stay the course". We hope to add back events when the time is right. The board will continue to meet through the offseason to plan a forward process regarding all things OYC. For the immediate future, our Annual Meeting will



Leave 2020 in rear view window!

take place via Zoom at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 12. All members will receive a link for this meeting via email.

Let's put all the down sides of 2020 in our rearview mirror and look forward. We hope that you will all stay safe, and that you will be with us when we kick off the 2021 season!

## **Financial Report and Updates: Rich Knaul, Treasurer**

I just thought you might want to know how the year went membership wise, which directly impacts the financial status of your place on the lake. Early in the year we were down to 158 members, but due to the great work of Laurie Weller and the membership committee, we finished the year at 174 members with 19 new members. I know, that should equal 177 members, but when you factor in 17 resignations, 12 members on or off leave and two returning members, it does equal 174. Thanks to Laurie and all those who reached out to possible members, and all those who helped by giving tours of the Club.

For many years we have had numerous requests to be able to pay dues by credit card. Finally, in early 2020, we offered the opportunity, but only had 8 members take advantage of the service. The potential liability, the monthly service charges to the Club, and the difficulty in reconciling the account is just not worth it for 8 users. To those 8, I am sorry you lose the points on your credit card, but look at the service charges you will save.

Every year I mention the fact that you have at least 4 months to pay your bill, and it is up to you to decide what best fits your budget, provided you pay the first half by March 31 and the balance by May 31. This year there were only two members who paid monthly. We do ask that that you please let us know before March 31 if you decide to go on leave or regretfully need to relinquish your spot on the lake.

In a normal year at a regular annual meeting, a detailed financial statement is presented showing what we started with, what we took in, what we spent and what we had left. This year, to simplify things for the ZOOM meeting, you will receive information showing where the money came from and where it went to justify what you pay in dues and fees. A reminder for all members: The money received from initiation fees is deposited into a capital reserve account to be used for capital projects. Also, each year an equivalent amount of cash, equal to the annual depreciation expense, is also deposited into the reserve account.

The capital project for 2020 was the handicap accessible walkway from the south parking lot to the swim area that cost \$1080 and was paid for from the capital fund. A big thank you for all the members who helped with the installation of the walkway. Capital projects for 2021

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As always, if you have any questions or suggestions pertaining to Club finances, I am available through the Club email, [owascoyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:owascoyachtclub@gmail.com), my personal email, [richk234@verizon.net](mailto:richk234@verizon.net) or by phone at 315-406-0591.

## **Around the Grounds: Al Bielecki**

Hello, Members—

Let me start by saying a big thank you to all of the people at the Club that I spoke with this season who had compliments on the Club's appearance.

In my first season as Grounds Director, I focused on keeping the grass areas neat and trimmed— as well as maintaining clean picnic areas. Special attention was given to cleaning the deck furniture and the seating in front of the Clubhouse. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of this season's Steward Tyler Mason, and Adam Collister and his crew from ACScapes.

Improvements from the Grounds Department this season included:

- \*Cleaning and painting parts of the Steward's Cabin.
- \*Fresh coat of paint on the garage
- \*Removal of overgrowth and trees along the North out road
- \*Proactive trimming of a large dead tree along the North Boundary Line (courtesy of our neighbor)
- \* Installation of the Southend Walkway and Drainage project by Rich Knaul, Don Devine, Jim Kusche, Dave Morris, Steve Vincent, Don Wallawender and others. Thank you to all who were involved.

Improvements to our grounds are a regular topic of conversation at our Board Meetings. I encourage our members to email me at [oycgroundsdirector@gmail.com](mailto:oycgroundsdirector@gmail.com) with suggestions or concerns about any area of our grounds.

Finally, this past season I have also volunteered in the role of Commodore Elect. I have worked closely with our Commodore to help ensure that the safety of our members is our first priority.

I would especially like to extend a thank you to Louise Wilson for sharing her insights about who we are as a Club, and what is required to fulfill the role of Commodore.

See you all at the lake!

## Message from the Secretary: Janet Carroll

*This season has been a different one as the Club has dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our members have risen to challenge! The summer was beautiful, and members have taken advantage of "our place on the lake."*

*I appreciate the opportunity to be the Secretary of the Owasco Yacht Club. This position entails taking minutes at the Board of Directors meetings, sending out the minutes to the directors following meet following meetings and managing correspondence as needed. The Secretary also presides over elections at the Annual Meeting. It has been interesting to learn about various issues pertaining to OYC's operation, and I continue to enjoy the camaraderie with other board members.*



## OYC YEAR IN REVIEW: COMMODORE'S 2020 COMPILATION

### MARCH

Things were beginning to change in the world and got much closer. We're hearing things about Covid-19, but hopefully it will end soon. We are optimistic that it will be business as usual by the time of June opening. The list of scheduled entertainment (16 bands, etc.) was sent out. On March 27, the first of what would become a weekly Friday morning email was sent to membership (sometimes found under the "Promotions" email tab. We felt it was particularly important to have each membership know what we were doing and, hopefully, what they could expect.

### APRIL

The first of many firsts. The OYC board of directors met by Zoom, a word that would become a noun, a verb and an adjective!

The Membership Director instituted a Prospective Member Orientation program. New prospective members met with a board member and were given a personal tour of the OYC along with a more streamlined process of becoming a member.

### MAY

We announced that there will be a season, even if we don't know exactly what it will look like. Work was being done on the floating dock, and all tree docks were installed for our use.

The board was busy at work trying to figure out what we could/should/would do, considering the directives issued by the state of New York.

More words and phrases were becoming the "new norm": Social distance, face coverings and a couple of songs to sing while properly washing our hands.

The Annual Spring Clean Up Day was held May 23. There was great participation from our members, and we welcomed many new members. A Cornell Chicken lunch was served after the work was done. We found that it was possible to get the work done and have some great socialization while following the guidelines.

The state and the OYC began to roll out "phases" as some restrictions were lessened.

## **JUNE**

By June 12, NY officially reached Phase 3. That meant we could open the clubhouse with members wearing masks and keeping safe distance.

A guest sign-in policy was introduced. Members could check in their guests in the clubhouse book, or by a newly created email address. This was done for contact tracing (another new term) should the need arise.

We got a new sign installed on Route 34 at the top of the driveway.

Wednesday Game Day was begun, following guidelines.

The official Kick Off the Season party that was scheduled for June 20 had to be cancelled.

Musical entertainment was to be the Tom Petty cover band, "Petty Thieves."

Sadly, we had to cancel the rest of the musical line up but would do whatever we could to being some back if possible.

By June 24, NYS began "Phase 4". This allowed us to open the Swim Area with daily lifeguards on duty. It also allowed the "Wild's at OYC" Snack Bar to open.

A member's Face Book page was started; *OYCyackers*, so members could go out and kayak with friends, safely.

## **JULY**

To offer better accessibility, a new sidewalk was put in from the south end parking area to the swim area.

We were able to offer a class on how to rig the OYC sailboats so that members are free to use.

It was a very good turnout; participants wore masks and stayed spread out.

Several members ordered remote control sailboats for another new way to enjoy the lake.

## **AUGUST**

We did what we could, and members were still able to use the facilities and keep cool in the water during a high heat season.

A Summer Membership Meeting was planned then cancelled due to safety concerns.

## **SEPTEMBER**

We had Muzzi's D'Italia bring their truck to the club. A wide variety of flavors of Italian Ice was provided at no charge to members.

## **OCTOBER**

Despite Covid, we still were able to have an enjoyable season. It was time for Fall Clean Up Day on the 17th. Again, a good turnout made the jobs get done in good time, and those in attendance enjoyed each other's company. A lasagna dinner was served to the workers. The following week, the crane came to take out the hoists and docks.

## **NOVEMBER**

The Annual Membership Meeting and Elections were scheduled for November 11. However, due to rising virus cases in the county, it was postponed.

## **DECEMBER**

A first ever Happy Hour by Zoom is scheduled for December 29. The idea was to have an opportunity to "see" friends we haven't seen in a while and we won't even have to wear masks. The other thing this will do will give us a trial run for the rescheduled Membership Meeting and Elections to be held in January.

## **JANUARY**

We have all been ready for 2021! Our Annual Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12. Details will be emailed.

## **2020 SOCIAL REPORT: ADELE KEEGAN**

The weather was grand, the lake was warm, the blue/green algae held off until the last two weeks in August. Members could be seen daily out on the lake with Club boats, kayaks, the pedal boat, remote control sailboats, etc. Soooooooo....why am I unhappy with this summer? NO music, no hugging friends, stay six feet away from me, and wear a mask. Still, there were some positives.

Looking back as I write this, I remember the beautiful sunsets, the new walkway and the "happy hours" with a few friends at the Club and also the many books I got to read feeling the warm summer breezes with the lake lapping at the shore. There were also all the delightful new members I got to meet; not such a bad summer after all, just a different summer with so many pluses.

I have kept contact with all our musician friends who are most anxious to play at OYC, and we are just as eager for their entertainment. Hopefully we can find a way to have our bands back next season. I will try to do the same bookings I had for this past season.

In other good news, we have had the best turnouts this season for "Clean-up Days". We have used some of our Social Budget to feed you. We also had Muzzi's Italian Ice truck come for our members to enjoy some of the tastiest ice I have ever had. The Board, with the leadership and hard work of our Commodore, tried our best to be in compliance with the State and so did our membership. So thanks for your cooperation.

I am looking for five assistants for the Social Committee: One to organize one crock pot event, one for a pot-luck supper and two to do one "Family Fun Day". Of course these activities will depend on the Covid situation. I know all of you miss these events. I do as well. I am now physically unable to create these events, but I will work with you in any way you need me. I have great organizational skills, I do like to brag.

Have a safe winter. See you in the spring.. I will be at my Florida home for the winter.  
As ever, Adele  
adelekeegan@gmail.com  
315-277-0035 (cell, you can text me)

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### **SETTING SAIL 2020: JIM KUSCHE**

It's been great to see more sailboats moored out front. It's been a few years since we've had as many and as many active sailors. In fact, a couple of boats were still moored well into fall. The other news is our new radio controlled (RC) fleet. Many of you have probably seen them sailing off the floating docks. Steve Vincent came up with the idea and away we went.

The goal was to find a challenging boat that would be fun to sail as a fleet and one that non-sailors could easily participate. We chose a rapidly growing design, the Dragon Flite 95.



They turned out to be a little more involved to put together than we initially knew, but we now have 7 experts on assembly. We are now experts at very small bowline knots and super glue! P.S. Super glue has no idea what knot you tied!

The RCs are challenging in that all the adjustment you normally see on real boats are present for fine tuning. The other way to sail them is set and forget. Settings and "discoveries" are shared frequently. Most of us are still at the "Oh crap, I pushed the joystick the wrong way" stage, but we have fun going around the buoys.

We met this past season on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons, and will most likely continue that schedule next summer. If anyone is interested in either trying one or getting more information, please contact me. Warning: They are addictive.

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### **On the Waterfront 2020: Ken Rescott**

To recap the season, we had difficulty finding the right weekend to put in floating docks and hoists, as the first weekend of May we were contending with SNOW. The floating docks ultimately went in, but we were unable to stain them beforehand, due to the unseasonably cold spring. Hopefully, after they come out, we will have an opportunity to power wash and stain for next season.

The rest of the summer went well in terms of lake conditions and weather. The club kayaks, canoes, sailboats, and paddle boat certainly got used a lot, which was fantastic to see. Watching the families swim this year well into the early sunset hours truly was great also. As we put away all the waterfront boats for winter, we can certainly look back and say: "WHAT A YEAR!"



#### **CLUB MOURNS LOSS OF LONGTIME MEMBER BOBBIE WALSH**

The OYC has lost a long- time member with the passing of Eloise "Bobbie" Walsh December 30. She and her late husband, Thomas had been members since joining in 1953. Bobbie was a regular at the club until health problems in 2015 made it difficult to visit. The ping pong table in the clubhouse was donated by Bobbie for the enjoyment of our members.

Our condolences go out to her daughter, Nancy Edwards and the entire Walsh family. In the photo above, Bobbie and daughter Nancy enjoy a mother-daughter moment at OYC.

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#### ***OYC: A Summer Haven, Especially in 2020***

*It was a summer of friends, picnics, and socializing. There was food and drink — served or bring your own — as well as swimming, sailing and kayaking. And, of course, the sunsets, each one bringing its own special spark — muted watercolors in clouds, bright pink and orange on warm, clear nights, or just daylight fading softly into night, warmed by s'mores and fire pits. The summer of 2020 might have been missing things like live music, large parties and physical proximity but, as one wise commodore told us if we got impatient*

*with things not going the way we wanted, we had the most beautiful “waiting room” imaginable. The shimmering spectacle of Owasco Lake, ready to offer us its many moods — shimmering, gently lapping at the shore or maybe whitecaps on wilder, windier days— served as our center, however we chose to use it.*

*And where we didn’t have the music we wished for, we had the soft strains of Jim and Sue’s ukulele, Kevin’s trademark harmonica or just a great playlist emanating from a speaker or two (thanks, Al, Diana, Louise). Truly, nothing like some tunes — whether on land or lake.*

*And even if protocol prevented hugs and handshakes, there was always plenty of seating designed with safety in mind. We could converse and reminisce over a bottle of wine or three, munch our individual snacks, and make new friends while treasuring the old. That’s a freedom we enjoyed all summer in our lovely lakeside living room.*

*What will 2021 bring? We can hope for the best but one thing is for certain — our Club will be there for us to enjoy. We might take it for granted, but as we learned last summer, we make our own good times. Our place on the lake is there to help us do just that. It’s a bond we share.*

*Happy New Year, and thank you to all those who made the impossible, possible.*

*—Andrea Fusco  
Editor, The Windward*

