



OWASCO YACHT CLUB



WINDWARD

LETTER FROM THE COMMODORE: YEAR IN REVIEW

I hope you all enjoyed *your* place on the Lake this summer. We are blessed to have such a wonderful spot to call our own whenever we need an escape. Mom Nature was pretty good to us this season, with favorable weather for the most part. The OYC is a group effort and I want to THANK YOU ALL for your friendship and assistance! It has been my pleasure to be the Commodore this year.

Here is the 2018 season in review, from the board of directors' viewpoint:

Winter

The board met for the first time this year in January. Discussion took place about what needed to be done or improved upon from the previous season. The major discussions were who would run the kitchen, who would fill in some gaps on the board, what type of events to we wanted to offer. And of course, a look at our finances going forward. At the 2017 Annual Meeting members present voted for a slight dues increase to help our bottom line. We welcomed Janet Carroll to the board as the new secretary and Tom & Cathy O'Toole as Membership Directors. Dates were set for upcoming early season events. We took fiscal responsibility by finding ways to save money while maintaining services. Looked for an assistant for the Kitchen and Swim Directors. Adele had already booked most of the musical acts for the season. Began working with agencies and organizations to see what we can do to help with the HAB (harmful algal bloom) issues. Winter Happy Hours were well attended.



Spring-Official Kick off the summer

Sponsored a Chamber of Commerce event, open house to the public (and welcome to our new members who joined because of that event!), Commodore's Meet and Greet, held a new-member sponsorship raffle. Got the picnic tables out earlier than usual so members could enjoy early season Club use. Spring Clean Up Day had decent attendance, but still not the participation hoped for. Welcomed Al & Diana Bielecki and Kerrie Marquart and John Hogan to help Adele with social events.

The Season Underway

We had about 17 musical acts perform for us. Invited food truck participation for Sundays when the kitchen was not open. Thursday Build-a-Burger nights were a constant hit with music every other week. Several Kids Eat Free days and weekly game day/nights were held. Crock Pot parties were well attended. Family Fun Western Hoe-Down introduced the OYC to some new friends. Welcome Aimee LeFever as Kitchen Director's Assistant. Weekly Email updates were sent and we tried to keep the website and Member's Only Facebook page as current as possible.

Fall-Winter

The Annual Membership Meeting and Elections will be held at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES on West Genesee Street Road, Monday, November 12 at 7 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. You will be receiving an email with a Member's Survey. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts or experiences with us so we can be the best club we can be.

Thank You for the Flag!

Our thanks go out to Joe and Laretta Weller, who after only being members for a couple of months have generously donated a new US flag. We will fly it proudly in the new season.

Louise Wilson

FROM THE WATERFRONT: END-OF-SEASON REMINDERS, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROJECT REVIEW

This past season went pretty quickly. The floating dock and boat hoists came out the weekend of September 27th, almost 2 months sooner than last year. The difference was there were no icicles hanging off the hoists and it was a whole lot safer and warmer water. We had a great turnout of helpers which made the whole process go smoothly.

The club participated in the algal bloom project also this season. There were two aerators placed in the swim area and an ultrasonic emitter placed out near the mooring buoys. The hopes were that the algae bloom would be less around the club. A scientist from Hobart and William Smith Colleges oversaw the project and took samples weekly. Pictures were also sent to him taken by a club member of the water off the swim area daily. We will await his results and perhaps participate again next year as the lake wide blooms were not as bad as last year.

Here are a few reminders as the season comes to a close:

1. Take your kayak off the racks in front of the club before cleanup on Saturday November 10th.
2. Mooring buoys should be taken care of before the ice takes them away to somewhere else on the lake during the winter months. There are several ways to do this. Email me for details or Google it.
3. All property should be removed off the shore before clean up on Saturday November 10th. We have seen the ice flow easily up the shoreline and can take away you boat or kayak. The water level also fluctuates tremendously after the winter thaw.

Enjoy the rest of the fall colors and we will see you in the spring.

—Ken Rescott kdroyc@gmail.com

Thanks for ping pong table and Sunfish

We have some very generous members who have donated items for our use.

A big new addition in the clubhouse is a Ping Pong table donated by Nancy Edwards on behalf of her mom, longtime member, Bobbie Walsh. It has already had much use and will more than likely be the site of tournaments in the future.

Additionally, Roger Beer donated a Sunfish sailboat for use by members; feel free to sign out the many boats the OYC owns!



The Club extends deepest sympathies on the passing of:

John LeFever

Becky Bye

Steve Carr

Nick Coblio

From OYC Secretary Janet Carroll:

OYC continued to be a great place for socializing, for quietly reading and enjoying the sun and sunsets! As the Club's new secretary, I enjoyed getting to know other board members. Learning about the OWLA project for reducing blue green algae and the Club's participation as a test site was particularly interesting. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity.

SOCIAL NOTES: GOOD TIMES HAD BY ALL; NEXT UP: “CABIN FEVER”

We had a fabulous summer...almost perfect, great weather, blue green algae took a vacation from our swim area, many events, exquisite sunsets, and the best music ever. We had a food truck,a catered BBQ, and \$5 burger Happy Hours. We really are fortunate to be OYC members. Thank you are in order to my “staff” of Assistants, John Hogan, Kerrie Marquart, and Al and Diana Bielecki ,for all the help they have given me to have the Social program that gives us so much joy. I also want to thank others who have helped so much,mainly the Klinks, Kathy Z.,Sylvia R.,Gail D.,the Greg Libertores, Bill and Nancy, Tracy, and Louise, and,of course, our members for all of your support for our endeavors, It really does take “a village”.

Your Social committee is working on “CABIN FEVER” events for the winter , checking out musical groups and beginning to plan some very special events for your pleasure. Please let us know who you would want to hear and what events you would like. Get a business card for any band that will be new to us so I can check them out. We would love to have you volunteer to be on our “Social Team”, it really is fun. I promise, no meetings, and only one easy thing to do. Join our team...it's fun!

CONTACT: adelekeegan@gmail.com, text 315-277-0035

As ever, Adele

FROM THE TREASURER: HAB UPDATES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) experimental project is now finished for the 2018 season, having ended last Sunday, September 30. Many thanks to Jake Whiting, our lifeguard and Joe Weller, a new member, for taking the daily pictures of the swim area as part of the experiment. Thank you OWLA volunteers, including Dr. Halfman and his staff for your huge part in this experiment. As soon as Dr. Halfman is finished with his report the results of the experiment will be available to all. Since the swimming area was closed only once this season the optimists are naturally going to say that the HAB equipment must have done something to keep the swim area free of HAB’s, but on the other hand the pessimists are going to say that the total number of HAB’s on the lake this summer was down.

An email early in the season explained the whole operation including the request for a \$10 donation from each of our members to help cover the cost of the equipment used in the experiment. The goal was to raise \$1500 spread over our membership so everyone could say that they helped in a small way to do something about the Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB’s). The results were somewhat disappointing with only 24 memberships (13 % of the membership) contributing \$630 (a \$26 average when only a \$10 contribution was requested). Thanks to Adele, she managed to raise an additional \$334 through raffles and the wine auction.

Thank you ever so much to the following donors:

Tina & Kevin Berry, Jim & Sue Best, Diane & Al Bielecki, Chuck & Joyce Biss, Tom & Bonny Blair, Janet Carroll, Judy Coye, Aggie Crothers & Nick Cobleo, Jim & Laila Cuddy, Gerry & Donna Fisher, Susan Fox, Andrea Fusco, Tom & Kathy Graber, Deb Lindfors, Adele Keegan, John & Suzanne Klink, Rich & Barb Knaul, Rick & Elaine Oughterson, Nancy & Bruce Purdy, Diane Sawyer, Don & Kathy Walawender, Mike Wall, Sylvia Wasserman, and Louise Wilson.

The window is still open for anyone who would still like to be part of this experiment. Granted, this technology is a band aid approach to what is occurring in the watershed and has nothing to do with reducing phosphorus and nitrogen, but it has had success in reservoirs, ponds and other small bodies of water reducing or eliminating HAB’s. The experiment here is: will it work in large bodies of water, such as Owasco Lake, in reducing or eliminating HAB’s? Our contribution of \$1500 towards this experiment is only 25% of the total cost of the equipment.

I would also like to thank Ken Rescott, Don Devine, Mark Querns, Al Bielecki, David Knaul and Rich Knaul and anyone I may have missed for their efforts installing, maintaining and removing the equipment.

In spite of the Blue Green Algae and HAB’s, lake property still brings a pretty good price and continues to increase. For anyone wanting access to Owasco Lake there is no better bargain than a membership in the Owasco Yacht Club, “YOUR PLACE ON THE LAKE”. Where else can you have direct access to Owasco Lake for less than \$600 per year, park within feet of your picnic table, have a great club house and deck from which to watch gorgeous sunsets, enjoy the camaraderie of a great bunch of people and not have all the work, worry or expense of owning a home or camp on the lake. To keep it affordable, we do need to maintain our membership around 200 memberships so please promote the Club to your friends and relatives.

— Rich Knaul

One More From the Commodore: Behind the Scenes — Keeping the OYC Running

Running a successful organization takes a lot of volunteer help. As you look around the grounds, clubhouse, and waterfront, most of what you see has been done or maintained by member volunteers. We undeniably have the lowest dues for a similar type club in central NY. It's because we rely on our members to do things that we don't need to hire out.

First and foremost, the Board of Directors work year-round planning and executing projects. There is a large cast of unsung heroes who do everything from mowing (before and after the Steward in on property), maintaining boats, putting in and taking out swim lines, rafts, weed mats, docks, painting the clubhouse ceiling (huge job), putting in the algae equipment, clearing brush out of the wooded areas, diving to check on mooring lines, fixing things, snow plowing the top of the driveway so we can park to snowshoe down to the lake... just too many things and people to list, because we don't want to forget anyone or anything.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Pictures speak louder than words; here are a few people in action.

— Louise Wilson



Summer Went Swimmably, Thanks to Lifeguards, Weather, Lake

First and foremost, I want to make a shout out to the lifeguard staff. They make being the swimming director a very easy job! There were no issues with no-shows, or scheduling and they have been great with club members.

The weather and the lake cooperated this year too. Plenty of sunshine and very little of that green stuff.

As you know we switched up the hours the swim area was open. We made that decision without much data, other than the total daily attendance for the day. This year we collected hourly data, and we will be conducting a member survey where you have an additional opportunity to provide some input. We plan to review all this data and re-evaluate what the hours should be for next season. You will see the survey coming to you via email.

See you all in the spring!

—Theresa Mason

Club Survey on the Way!

Keep an eye out in your e-mail box for an online survey.

As an email, there will be a link that will launch the survey. It will take you only a few minutes to fill out and will provide the board with important information. We will of course share the results with all the membership.