

# Windward Newsletter

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Editor: Gary Robertson

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## OWASCO YACHT CLUB

### From the Commodore – Brad Wilson

Looking back over the past year at OYC, I realize I have something in common with John Copeland. We were both Commodore for three consecutive years, though he began his term in 1940. I had been a member for 19 years, but 2010 was the first time I was on the board. (It's never too late to get involved!) Not knowing what to expect, I found that our Club has an amazing group of people who work really hard for our members. Without these individuals we would either cease to exist, or our dues could be as much as tripled because we would have to hire out most of the work.

Everyone on our board volunteers their time, there is no compensation of any sort. Just the satisfaction of knowing that we contributed to the treasure that is OYC. Every decision that is made is not taken lightly. The entire board gives each issue much thought. We look at the whole picture, not just one small aspect of it, and do what we feel is in the best interest of everyone. So at the end of my third year as Commodore, I looked back at some of my personal highlights.

**2012:** We got a beautiful new playground for the kids to enjoy and the adults to know the kids have a fun and safe environment to play in. We got a new motorized hoist with cover to protect the Boston Whaler. We got new racks to hold the ever increasing number of kayaks that show up each year. I was pleased to be able to invite the Syracuse Hobie Fleet 204 to a fall regatta and had several members help pull it off successfully. As always, the special events and musical entertainment that we have were a hit and the pig roast had a huge turnout. We had our first ever "Winers' Woes" wine tasting event. We didn't want any more *whining* at the annual beer blast from those who prefer wine over beer. We aim to please. A record number of families and kids came out for "Minute to Win It with Mingling Magic" day. We all had a great time, young and old(er) alike.



Playground installation fall 2012

**2013:** The year started off with losing our kitchen provider weeks before opening. What a rough patch that was, trying to find someone who could help us out at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Fortunately for all of us, we found Ron Darby and the kitchen was saved. The Syracuse Hobie fleet came for another regatta with an even bigger turnout of boats. The roof on the garage and the north picnic pavilion were replaced. The dues structure was reconfigured to make it more equitable across the board and was unanimously accepted by a vote at the Annual Meeting. Can you believe that that was our 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting?!



Fall 2013 Hobie regatta



Spring 2014 Cleanup Day.

**2014:** We had a record turnout for spring cleanup day and the work got done in no time. The exterior trim on the clubhouse has been painted and a lot of the outdoor lighting was upgraded. And how about those new chairs? They seem to be a hit, as are the recliners. We got a new industrial grade stove for the kitchen. It took the whole season to tweak the stove for the kitchen (thank you for your patience), but we should be all set for 2015.

There is work being done year round, some of which you can see, and some you can't. I'm proud to be a part of it, and it has been my pleasure to oversee the managing of our Club. I thank our board again for all the work and effort that keeps our club in such a great shape. Thank you to all of the people behind the scene who aren't on the board that give their time, help and enthusiasm on a regular basis.

***With all of your help***, we can keep OYC going for decades to come.



**From the Sailing Director –  
Jim Kusche**

We had a mixed sailing season this year. We had enough good Wednesday nights to get in 13 races and be able to award the series trophy. Sundays are class trophy series and we just didn't have enough boats participate to award trophies this year. We could go back to a straight handicap series like Wednesday nights if that would generate more participation. We need to hear from you if that's the case.

One goal next year is to get more sailors on the water. Steve Vincent and I talk about it every week. Gary Robertson has also suggested ways to stimulate participation from the lesson program he runs in early July. Understanding that jumping right into a race scenario may be a big step, we will look at a less competitive format and gear something new to more of a fun setting. We would aim it for adults as well as the younger crowd. It may be an additional night (other than Wednesday) to keep it unassuming and let it evolve into whatever the participants prefer. Your comments are very much appreciated.



Kid's sailing lessons summer 2014

**From the Grounds Director – Mark Querns**

I hope that there will be some good fall weather. Come on up to the club and enjoy it when it is here. You can sit by the lake, read a book, paddle your kayak, or just watch a sunset. I want to thank everyone who made the effort to attend Yacht Club activities, used the swimming area and the grounds, and supported the kitchen. To get the most out of your membership you have to get here. I know that sometimes that is the hardest part, but remember next time when you think it's too hot out to go anywhere (as you're sitting in your air conditioned cave), it's always at least 10 degrees cooler at the lake and more relaxing than staring at four walls and a computer screen.

So anyways, it is all good! Hope you all enjoyed the club, and we will see you soon.

**From the Waterfront Director – Ken Rescott**

Fall cleanup will be occurring soon. To the boat and kayak owners it means storage time. A few reminders to hoist owners. Make sure canopies are off and hoist is in the up position. This is necessary for the chains of the crane to safely remove your hoist from the water. It also enables us to climb up your hoist to guide chains into place. All docks need to be removed at least one week prior to the crane coming. We can't be scrambling around that morning trying to get docks out and working with the crane at the same time. If you have someone else take it out please make arrangements with that individual and go up and check to see if indeed it is out and stored on the shore.

For those of you mooring boats you may want to invest in a cone shaped winter mooring buoy. The ice moved the mooring field around this spring and two buoys ended up north of the club by a few football fields. It was no easy task to bring them back.

For those that used the waterfront this year I hope you enjoyed it and look forward to spring, 2015! Hope to see you at cleanup or hoist and dock removal day.

**From the Club Secretary – Louise Wilson**

We encourage you to visit the OYC website and check it often, especially throughout the season, to stay up to date on the latest Club events. We will do our best to keep it as current as possible. You never know what events might be offered after the season is officially over and I have a feeling there will be some activities throughout the year. I highly suggest you click on the various tabs across the top or side of the home page to explore the various information posted. There are a number of helpful as well as entertaining items on the “Links” tab. The weather sites can be helpful when planning activities in our fickle central New York weather patterns. With one click you can get up to the minute information. We also moved the Photo Gallery to the “Links” tab, so take a look if you haven’t already done so.

On another note, the Commodore, Treasurer and Secretary always try to respond to OYC emails in a timely manner. We ask you to remember that we are all dues paying volunteers and do the best we can, so please be patient.

Progress is s-l-o-w-l-y being made to get the majority of our membership in the Member Photo book. Thanks for those of you who have let me take your photo or have provided one. Many people have found the photo book quite helpful, so your cooperation is appreciated. Some of you still have a picture of a pirate or an old sea salt next to your name, so let’s try to change that next season!

Thanks for your support and helping make OYC the great Club it is! Hope to see you on cleanup day.

**From the Kitchen Director—Adele Keegan**

Thanks to all of you who supported our kitchen this rainy, windy summer. We had to close some of those days as a result. To those few of you who came to eat and were disappointed, you will be pleased to know that we are working on a way to inform members of kitchen closings. Ron has made up those days and kept our kitchen open through the week of Labor Day. Thanks Ron...many of us enjoyed this week as summer weather finally came.

Accolades to Ron, Eddie, Nick, and Andrea who managed to cook all of our food in spite of that nasty oven that didn't work all season. As I wrote this, it still wasn't working, the installer promises it will be fixed soon. Ron has been on this problem all season. We will take necessary action to be certain we have everything up and running for the kitchen staff in the future. Those of you who have understood and have been patient, we thank you. We especially thank Ron for sticking to our planned menu through great difficulty. Ron has been extremely loyal to our Club and our members. THANKS RON!! (Editor’s Note: The stove is now fixed and fully operational and ready for the 2015 season.)

Next season, I am happy to report, Marcus Wilson will be our Kitchen Director. Marcus is enthusiastic about the position and will be an asset to the Board. Marcus knows his way around a kitchen and his girls, I am certain, will have input in helping to make his menus for the kitchen. I know one daughter is a talented baker. I hope to see some of her fabulous creations. I will assist Marcus for a bit, but, I am certain he will not need much help.

Again, Thanks Ron and staff for your hard work and ingenious methods of working without adequate equipment. You are most appreciated.

**From the Social Director – Adele Keegan**

Weather kept many of you away for our events. However, “The show must go on”, and it did. Never let weather keep you away from a Club event...we make it happen anyway. Our music was outstanding this season. Those of you who attended enjoyed and passed the word on I'm sure. Some of the most favorite were Joe Whiting, “Magical Mystery Tour”, Diana Jacobs Band (who fought the rain), and Bob Piorun's “Swing Kats”. We will try to book them again.

I am delighted to report that we have Jim Bye working with me next season. Jim brings enthusiasm and

many fresh ideas to consider for next season. With two of us, we will be able to offer quite a few more events that members have asked for. Please let us know what you liked, what you didn't care for, and what you would like to see added to Club events. I am excited to work with Jim, as he will give a new look to our social schedule. We will be working together all winter to bring you a fantastic social calendar for next season.

Thanks to all who attended, and a special thanks to Ron and his kitchen crew for providing food for our events under less than adequate conditions. What a nice touch to be served our dessert while sitting outside enjoying the music. People who just came to enjoy the music were served as well. Thanks Ron for keeping the coffee pot on after the kitchen closed. WHAT A GUY!

Thanks to our musicians, and a special thanks to "Diana Jacobs Band", who managed to go on outside after a sudden downpour. They waited until the rain stopped and we were able to enjoy an evening of music.

We welcome your thoughts...remember we are all volunteers on the Board. We welcome your help. Be a part of the solution when something doesn't meet your Club expectations. As ever, Adele

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The Labor Day Beer Blast 2014



Summer entertainment on the porch 2014

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

With the cool weather we have had the last few days, it 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 of the summer of 2014. 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. Joe Chindamo, our Club Steward, for keeping the Club in tip top shape; lifeguards: Brigid Cotter, Mary Buck, Celina Rescott, Nathan Harding, Sofia Darovskikh, Jonathan Hartnett, Tyler Mason, and Sheldon Ryan who filled in at the end of the season. Thanks to all of them and the best to all of them 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 getting in 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 and 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.

Thank you Louise and Brad, 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 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 Adele Keegan 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 *WINDWARDS*s 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 for her work as secretary and Brad for being our commodore. Please contact Brad or Jon if you would like serve on the board. Thanks to Ron and his kitchen crew 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 working to put together a survey that will reflect your use and thoughts of the Club and how they can improve on the best kept secret on Owasco Lake.

Please take the time to give it some thought and respond. Thanks for reading this.



***These are the things that make our Club so great!!***