

THE WINDWARD

Owasco Yacht Club, Inc.
Auburn, NY 13021

October 1999



~Commodore's Corner~

Rumors seem to be spreading at an alarming rate about a proposed elimination of the position of steward at the OYC. Here are the facts as to what was considered and what was decided.

Over the past two years we have seen a critical decline in membership at the club. This decrease has left many of the yearly club programs in jeopardy. It appeared that there would be insufficient funds to support all of the normal club activities. There were three avenues we considered in an attempt to avert this crisis:

1. Actively pursuing new members.
2. Using monies from the capital fund to cover yearly programs.
3. Eliminating programs that the membership expects.

In the decision concerning the elimination of programs, we considered eliminating the position of steward with the possibility of renting the cottage to members. Concerns were recently expressed by members about making these changes. These same concerns were shared by members of the board early last spring: security, safety, tradition, etc. To avert the crisis, the decision was made to actively pursue new members.

In our first initiative, board members individually called active club members in an attempt to solicit names of people who might be interested in joining the club. A personal letter from the commodore and the OYC brochure were sent to each name submitted.

Secondly, we had articles in this summer's issues of the Windward, pleading for names of potential members.

Lastly, we posted a form on the new bulletin board on which members could also submit the names of potential new members. These efforts paid off. The membership increased enough so that no programs had to be canceled.

Keeping the membership level up around 200 families is imperative in order to conduct the everyday activities of the club. Low membership levels, late payment of dues, and late resignations make it extremely difficult to budget for the year.

In order to maintain our wonderful facility, we have some capital improvements

that have to be made in the near future. I mentioned in previous articles that the swim area, the mole, the north picnic area, and the future sanitary sewer connection will weigh heavily on our capital funds.

The upcoming general membership meeting and dinner will be both a social and business meeting. We are looking for ideas from you for increasing our membership and for acquiring the funds that will be required to make the needed improvements. We also want your ideas for improving our current programs. If you are interested in holding a board position, tell someone. There are openings every year. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with any of the club activities. Step up to the plate, and help make a good thing even better.

Thanks,

Hobie Romig

Celebration of Life



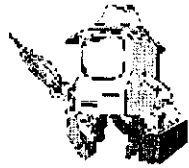
We celebrated "TOOT'S" 100th birthday on August 21st, and what a celebration it was. Food, fun, and friendship was the order of the day. Her date of birth was August 23, 1899.

On August 18, 1999, we welcomed to our club, newborn Eric Michael Chindamo, son of Sam and Shelby. Ladies' Day was being enjoyed when the phone rang and proud Gramma Nora emerged from the kitchen to announce the news.

Congratulations "TOOT"
and
Welcome Eric Michael.

CYC. Local JRG

From the Keyboard Your Treasurer



The end of summer is here, and we can all wonder where it went.

We started out the season with a huge loss in membership (25) but finished the season with 15 new members and one reinstatement. Our membership now stands at 160, and we only have 25 more to go to meet the 185 member goal.

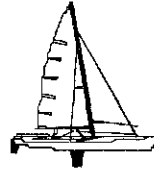
Since the last newsletter was published Stephen and Theresa Kline, Bernard and Vickie Meade, and Robert Haskell have become new members. We welcome back Ralph and Mary Ann Estrich and their two sons, Michael and Joseph.

Many people have expressed their opinions on the possible cost-cutting measures that were investigated by the board early last spring (see the Commodore's report). This is your club and the board would appreciate any comments, ideas, or help with ways to improve the OYC or increase its membership. The suggestion has been made that the minutes and treasurer's report of each board meeting be posted. During the months that the club is accessible, the minutes and treasurer's report will be posted on the new bulletin board. If anyone has any questions or concerns about any financial aspect of the club, please feel free to contact me.

I have just received the updated boat mooring, shore space, and trailer list and will soon be billing for any changes. Please be patient because I have to verify those I have already billed and those I haven't. If you feel I have made a mistake on your billing, please do not ignore it; contact me right away.

You can reach me at 252-6101 or email to richk@relex.com.

Rich Knaul,
Treasurer



Sailing

Well, another sailing season is almost over. Yes, we are still sailing although it probably will be over soon. The Sunday racing is unofficial, but we set marks as long as people show up. The water was still warm last time I checked.

The racing season turned out to be one of the better ones I can remember. We had great wind all summer, and even though we had only one race in June, we got in over 40 races for the season! Even Wednesday nights had wind. Ken Catino again was our on-the-water race committee and did a fine job as usual. Final results for the Summer Series were:

1st- Jim Kusche	6th- Bob Cotter
2nd- Peter Whiting	7th- Hobie Romig
3rd- Russ Kincaid	8th- Tom Lepak
4th- Steve Vincent	9th- Bob Sloan
5th- John Knaul	10th- Ralph Estrich

The Labor Day weekend was a full three days of racing for some of us. We started out Saturday with a trek to the Skaneateles All-Lake Regatta. Russ Kincaid, Peter Whiting, and I took our boats over and made a good showing despite the VERY light wind. Russ and his tri took most of the honors. Peter almost took home the youngest skipper award. He missed by just a few months!

Sunday we all returned to OYC for the final race of the regular sailing season. The wind sort of cooperated although we did end up paddling back to the beach. Fortunately Monday was another story.

Labor Day was a good sailing test for the end of the season. It made up for the lack of wind on Saturday and Sunday! We got in three long races before we ran out of parts and boats. You'll have to ask the racers for the details, but the scoreboard looks something like this: capsizes-4 (that I know of), first halyard fix, rudder pin, second halyard fix, 2 retired boats, and one major sail repair (mine!).

After the carnage was over, the results were Jim Kusche 1st, Peter Whiting 2nd, and Steve Vincent 3rd. It was actually pretty close considering 2nd, 3rd and 4th were only separated by 1 point each.

There's still some nice sailing left.

Hope to see ya' on the water!
Jim Kusche

Fall Clean Up Day



Saturday, October 16th

9:00 AM

Rain Date

Sunday, October 17th

9:00 AM

Our Many Thanks

Toot is still talking about her 100th birthday party. She spends hours looking at all the cards she received and looking at the many pictures that were taken.

The Owasco Yacht Club has been one of the few things that she has looked forward to each summer, and she is already looking forward to next summer and her 101st.

The willingness of everyone to stop and say hello or sit and talk with her is very much appreciated.

We would like to thank everyone who attended, sent her a card, sent her a gift, or a donation to a worthwhile cause in her name.

A special thanks to Diana, Nora, Bill (the BBQ chef), David, Katie, and John for everything they did to make the day special.

Again, our many thanks,
Barb and Rich Knaul

WATERFRONT

The season is coming to fast halt. Over the next few weeks, we will be taking out the main dock.

All boats **must** be off the lifts by October 15th. The lifts are scheduled to be removed by the end of October. Those that have moorings, please make sure you put a winter buoy on your mooring so that the mooring does not get dragged away by the ice. If you don't have one, call the Sailboat Shop to purchase one. They will also install it for you if you don't have time.

Remember to get OYC stickers for your boat and trailer. This also includes canoes and small sail boats kept on shore. I will make sure, by the opening of next season, to have stickers for everyone.

I hope everyone enjoyed the great season we had.

Mike Belz,
Waterfront Director



**Greetings from
the kitchen!**

Thank you for your patronage and support this summer.

It was wonderful seeing everyone enjoying the wonderful weather.

Have a wonderful winter and remember:
**SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE
CORNER! SEE YOU IN THE NEXT
MILLENNIUM!!!**

Kitchen Directors,
Beth Liberatore & Mary Ann Janis