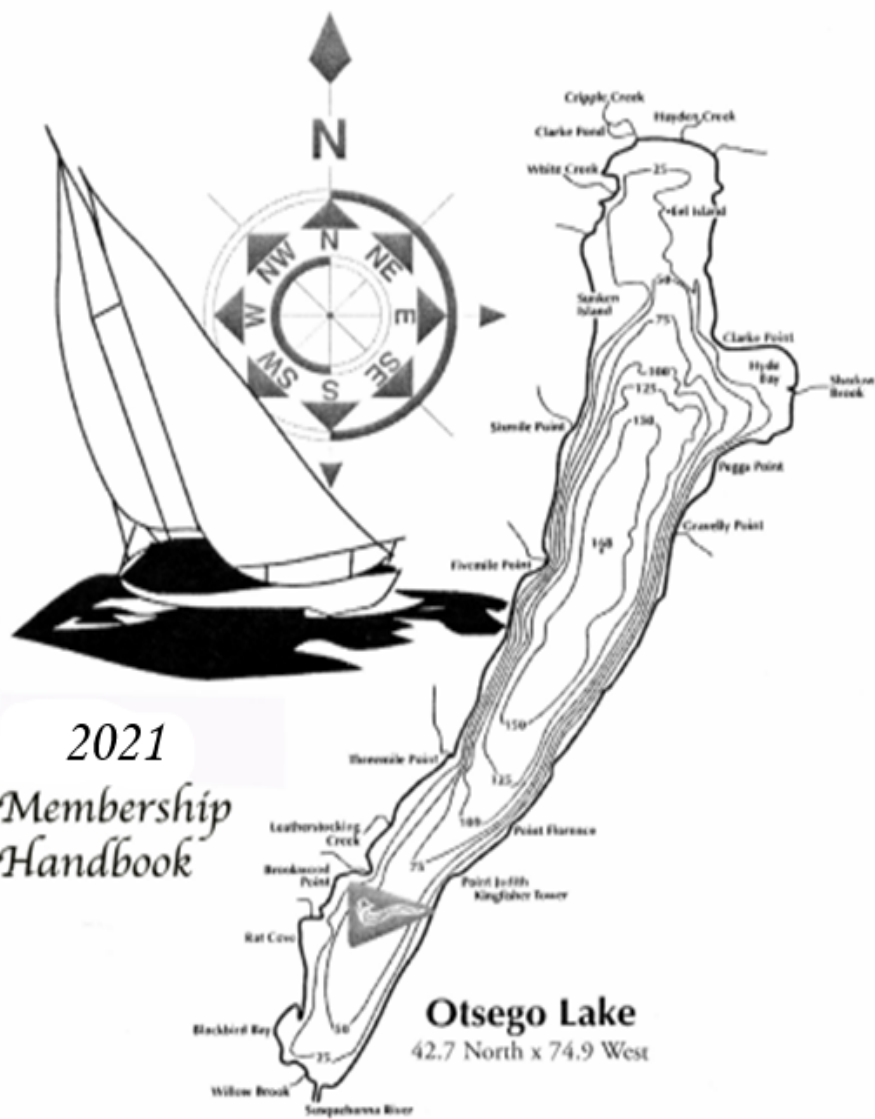


# Otsego Sailing Club Cooperstown, New York



2021  
Membership  
Handbook

**Otsego Lake**  
42.7 North x 74.9 West

[www.otsegosailingclub.com](http://www.otsegosailingclub.com)

## *History*

The Otsego Sailing Club Inc. is a not-for-profit organization of sailboat enthusiasts who have mutual interests in sailing and sailboat racing. The club was founded to encourage recreation and competitive sailing; to promote safety in sailing and all associated activities; and to promote good sportsmanship.

The club traces its roots to the summer of 1961 when five families sailed together on Otsego Lake. That fall, they organized the Otsego Sailing Club. By-laws were written and racing and social programs were organized. The support that the club received from Harry Cook was one of the key factors that assured its future. For several years, he permitted the club to rent part of his land and eventually sold, to the club, the property it now owns.

The club has prospered over the years because of the good will and cooperative spirit of its members. Membership includes privileges and responsibilities required to ensure the survival of the club. Throughout its history, the club has owed its existence to members who routinely volunteer to do more than the minimum required. Nearly everything we do is done by members volunteering their time and energy and serving on the club's various committees.

## ***Mission Statement***

*The mission of the Otsego Sailing Club, Inc. (“OSC”) is to (i) provide an association of sailboat owners and others who have mutual interests in sailing and sail boat racing; (ii) to encourage sail boating as a recreative and competitive sport; (iii) to establish rules and means for competitive sail boat racing by members; (iv) to promote safety in sailing and all associated activities; (v) to promote good sportsmanship; and (vi) to do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members or officers, except as permitted by New York State Law.*

## ***Privileges of Membership***

- Use of club property and facilities
- Limited mooring, docking, and boat storage facilities
- Picnicking and barbecuing
- Participation in social and sailing activities
- One vote per Regular Membership

## ***Responsibilities of Membership***

- Participation at Spring and Fall Dock Days
- Serve Host/Race Duty for one assigned weekend each year
- Pay all dues, dock, and storage fees on time
- Be familiar with and adhere to club policy and all NYS Boating Laws
- Use personal property belonging to other members only with their permission

## *OSC Policies*

### **Use of Club Property and Facilities**

- Only members in good standing may use the club property and facilities.
- Children under 18 must be supervised by an adult, at all times.
- No one underage may consume alcohol on club property.
- Bring food and alcoholic beverages home with you.
- We discourage the use of single-use dinnerware and water bottles. You are welcome to borrow dishes from the kitchen, but please wash, dry, and put away anything you use.
- Smoking is not permitted in the clubhouse, on the docks, or in the pavilion.
- Littering is prohibited anywhere on club property or on the lake. All trash should be placed in the containers provided.
- No excessive noise.
- The clubhouse, sheds, and tents may not be used for the storage of personal property/equipment.
- Parking is permitted on the northern side of the driveway. For safety reasons, there is no double parking. Passengers and equipment may be dropped off near the clubhouse prior to parking cars. The club telephone is for emergency calls and official club business only.
- Pets are not permitted on club property, including docks.

- Fishing is not permitted on the main dock or in the vicinity of swimmers or sailors docking their boats.
- Swimming at your own risk. There is no lifeguard on duty. Swimmers should be aware that there are Zebra mussels in the lake – appropriate precautions include shoes at all times. Swimmers should pay close attention to all boat activity in and around the harbor.
- Small groups of family and close friends are welcome as guests. Groups of 10 or more, or organized events, require prior approval and scheduling with the club's Vice Commodore. Members must accompany guests at all times and be responsible for their conduct.
- Tent camping is permitted on OSC property. Please contact the Commodore for permission prior to camping. Camping vehicles and trailers may be permitted for special events by invitation. Bonfires are permitted only in the fire pit – weather permitting.
- Use of the gas grill is welcomed. Please ensure the gas is completely turned off at the tank and the grill is cleaned and returned to its storage shed after use.
- The last person to leave the club shall put the flags away, turn off all lights, make sure that everything is locked up, check to see that all motorboats are properly secured, and confirm that the launch ramp chain is locked.

## **Use of Club Boats**

- The club maintains fleets of Lasers, Optis, and Flying Scots exclusively for the Instructional Sailing Program. Boats are not available for any other use by either members or guests.

- Club motorboats are for use during club-sanctioned activities and emergencies. The work barge is also available for mooring maintenance--coordinate with the harbormaster. All club members are expected to become familiar with the proper use of club motorboats and associated equipment. Orientation is available for Host Duty members most Saturday mornings.

### **Topside Storage of Members' Boats and Trailers**

- Boats not being used for the season may not be stored at the club, except with permission from the Commodore.
- Moored and docked boats may be kept at the club short term in preparation for launching or removal from the club.
- Regular Members in good standing may store their trailered daysailer boats on club property during the sailing season. Member boats should be parked in designated rows between the pavilion and the upper field. Trailers must have club registration sticker affixed on or near the tongue and the member's name placed on the tongue with a permanent marker.
- No member-owned boat should be kept along the treeline.
- Empty trailers may not be stored at the club. However, members who have stored their empty trailer at the club prior to 2013 may continue to do so. Empty trailers must have a club registration sticker affixed on or near the tongue as well as the owner's name in paint or permanent marker. Trailers should be parked in rows in the top field.
- It is the responsibility of the boat owner to keep the grass under and around their trailer mowed at all times.
- Kayaks, canoes, and all other types of small watercraft

may not be stored on club property. However, members who have done so prior to 2013 may continue to store their canoe or kayak on club property on the club-provided rack only and have a club registration sticker clearly affixed.

- Members in good standing are welcome to store their sail or trailered boats on club property during the winter months. The club does not insure or provide security for the boats. Car top boats (kayaks, canoes, etc.) are not eligible and must be removed. Members must complete Winter Storage Forms (available on the OSC website) and pay the Winter Storage fee each year, no later than Fall Dock Day. A 10% late fee will be added if payments are made after Dock Day. Members who have not applied for and paid for Winter Storage will be charged \$10/week for each unauthorized boat in addition to the annual fee.
- Any boat owners who are no longer members in good standing must remove all boats, trailers, dinghies, and related property within 30 days of notification by return-receipt mail. After 30 days, in the absence of good-faith efforts to remove it, a property storage fee of \$100 per month will be assessed until the property is removed.

### **Use of Docks, Shoreline, and Harbor**

- To protect Otsego Lake from harmful invasive species, all members and guests must familiarize themselves, and comply, with preventive measures when launching any boat. Information is posted on the OSC website, in the clubhouse, and on the NYS DEC website.
- Members are allowed one keel boat in the harbor, either on

mooring or dock.

- A waiting list is maintained by the Harbormaster for both dock and mooring spaces. Only Regular Members in good standing, can request to be placed on the waiting list.
- Mooring and dock assignments are made at the Harbormaster's discretion.
- Dock space is available for keel boats (cruisers) on a first-come, first-served basis. There is an annual fee for dock space based upon the boat's length.
- All boats on docks or moorings must have a club registration sticker affixed. Stickers available from the Harbormaster.
- Mooring space is available for keel boats (cruisers) on a first come – first served basis. The Harbormaster assigns mooring spaces; however, the boat owner is responsible for supplying and maintaining all mooring equipment (anchor, chain, swivel, mooring balls, etc.) OSC advises at least a #200 mushroom or equivalent mooring anchor. The club is not responsible for the maintenance or loss of moorings in the club harbor, nor any loss resulting from equipment failure. Members assigned a mooring space will be assessed an annual charge to cover the costs of periodic checking of equipment and relocation of moorings.
- Club members are **STRONGLY** encouraged to have adequate and appropriate liability insurance for their boats and marine activities. The club will not be liable for damage to personal property or injury.
- The club reserves the right to evaluate mooring equipment and dock tackle annually. The club may request that a member replace inadequate mooring equipment. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of mooring or dock site.



- A lapsed membership will result in forfeiture of a mooring or dock site or any member who does not place their boat on their assigned mooring or dock space for two consecutive years will forfeit the assigned space.
- In the event of forfeiture, requests for a new assignment submitted for the year following forfeiture will be placed at the beginning of the waiting list.
- Members are not permitted to reassign mooring or dock spaces to other members. Any member who resigns from the club or sells their boat will have their mooring/dock space reassigned by the Harbormaster.
- Members who are assigned mooring sites will be permitted to store one dinghy in a designated dock space. The Harbormaster will determine what dock spaces are appropriate for dinghy storage.
- Kayaks, canoes, or other small watercraft may not be stored on the docks or shoreline, unless used to access a moored cruiser.
- On weekends, cruisers may use the docks to pick up crew, etc. but they may not remain tied to the docks for extended periods of time as it causes traffic congestion and strain on the docks.
- Motorboats, other than those owned by the club, are not allowed at the club.
- Personal gear should not be left on the docks for extended periods of time. Running, or other horseplay, is not permitted on the docks.

## *Membership and Dues*

The Otsego Sailing Club offers the following classes of membership:

### **Regular Membership:**

- Must be a sailboat owning person or family.
- Regular members have full privileges and responsibilities.
- Each Regular Membership has one vote.

### **Associate/Crew Membership:**

- Non-sailboat owning person or family.
- Crew members have full use of the club and bear all responsibilities or membership.
- Crew Members have no voting rights nor may serve on the Executive Board.

### **Inactive Membership:**

- Former members who want to continue receiving mailings from OSC.
- Inactive members do not need to reapply in order to reactivate their membership.

### **Applying for Membership**

Applications for membership are available at [www.otsegosailingclub.com](http://www.otsegosailingclub.com). Completed applications are submitted to the membership chair who will contact the applicant to provide an overview of OSC and to explain the

application process. The process includes:

- Attending a new member orientation session before their application is presented to the board for approval. The orientation session will include a tour of the club and a review of club policies, procedures, responsibilities, and privileges.
- All new applications shall be brought before the Executive Board for approval.
- Membership dues will be owed and payable upon acceptance to the club. New members will have their dues prorated by the portion of the sailing season remaining in the year in which they are accepted.

### **Invoicing and Membership Dues**

- Invoices for annual dues are sent via email by the Paymaster in early January of each year. A 10% late fee will be added to all dues not paid by 2/28. As per the By-Laws, members more than 60 days in arrears will no longer be considered a member in good standing.
- It is each member's responsibility to maintain a current email address on file with the paymaster or to make alternate arrangements for receiving invoices.
- Members are expected to introduce themselves to new members and to provide welcoming assistance whenever possible.

## ***Club Governance***

The Executive Board of the club establishes all club policies and is responsible for oversight of all aspects of the club's operation. The board consists of Commodore, Vice Commodore, Paymaster, Keeper of the Log, Trustees (2), and Past Commodore (as a non-voting member).

The board is elected by a vote of all Regular Members at the club's Fall Meeting. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the annual Fall and Spring meetings.

The Commodore appoints Committee Chairs, including:

Facilities  
Membership  
Harbormaster  
Instructional Sailing  
Communications

Glimmerglass Regatta  
Racing  
Social  
Long Range Planning  
Nominating

### ***Communications***

- All members will be provided with an Annual Membership Directory containing contact information for all members.
- The club newsletter (*Gusts & Puffs*) is emailed periodically. We encourage members to submit articles, photographs, and other useful information.
- The club website is located at [www.otsegosailingclub.com](http://www.otsegosailingclub.com). A password-protected membership section provides members with access to information on club matters and opportunities to communicate with other club members.

### ***Instructional Sailing Program***

The Otsego Sailing Club offers sailing instruction to adults, youth (ages 10-17), and children (ages 6-10). Lessons are available to both members and non-members. Schedules for lessons and registration forms are available at [www.otsegosailingclub.com](http://www.otsegosailingclub.com).

### ***Sailboat Racing***

Races are held Saturday and Sunday during the racing season. Opportunities to crew on racing boats are regularly available.

Please arrive by 11:30am on Saturday or Sunday and talk to the racers about crewing. The OSC website also provides a forum for members looking for opportunities to crew.

Racers should be aware that our weekend race committees consist of volunteer members, many of whom are not racers. Racers are expected to be polite and show respect to committee members. Any racer with a concern regarding the conduct of a race should communicate with the race committee co-chair.

Unsportsmanlike behavior is not welcome at OSC. Sailors who direct such behavior at the race committee or at fellow sailors may be penalized under US Sailing “The Rules of Sailing.”

Enjoy your time on the water and, on behalf of all racing sailors, thank you!

### ***Weekend Hosting Duties***

All members are required to serve as hosts on one assigned weekend each year. A minimum of one person from each member family must participate. An experienced member is designated as the lead host for each weekend on the schedule. Race Committee Orientation for weekend hosts starts at 9:30 every Saturday. The weekend host schedule is prepared by the Race Committee Chair and is posted on the OSC website and distributed in *Gusts and Puffs* each Spring. Members with a scheduling conflict are responsible for trading dates with another member. Feel free to use the host duty swap page on the

OSC website for making such arrangements. If a member trades assigned host weekend dates, final changes must be recorded on the schedule on the clubhouse bulletin board, as well as notifying the race committee chair.

Hosting duties generally include housekeeping for the clubhouse and grounds as well as participation on the weekend race committee.

### **Host Duties:**

- Arrive by 9:30am both Saturday and Sunday
- Attend the race committee training Saturday morning and participate as a member of the race committee for races held during your host weekend.
- Raise the flags
- Sweep, clean, and neaten the clubhouse
- Put away any items left out
- Clean the bathrooms and resupply them with toilet paper and paper towels
- Remove all garbage and place in dumpster
- Sweep or mop the clubhouse floor, including bathrooms
- Sweep the clubhouse deck
- Clean the gas grill, if needed
- Sweep launch ramp and remove stones, sticks, and other debris.
- Sweep and inspect the stairs.
- Sweep and inspect waterfront areas and docks.
- Water the plants around the clubhouse and on the docks.
- Check for, and remove, debris from under the pavilion.
- Upon leaving, do a general inspection to make sure

everything is shipshape; lower and stow flag; turn off all lights; lock all doors and sheds; and check to see that all motorboats are properly secured.

- Remove all food from the refrigerator at the end of the day, unless otherwise noted. No alcohol is to be left in the clubhouse overnight.

## **Race Committee:**

The Otsego Sailing Club is dedicated to the enjoyment we derive from all aspects of sailing. Racing sailboats, the original purpose of the Club, is intended to be a competitive but fun activity with the races run by a committee of fellow members. Serving on the committee, just like racing, should be an enjoyable day on the lake.

Preparation for the day's racing begins at 9:30am with training for new members and refreshers for more experienced members. The race committee should depart the docks by noon to set the course. The first race begins promptly at 1:00pm.

You can expect the temperature on the water to be both colder and hotter than it is on shore. Make sure you have the essentials for being on the water for 2-3 hours: sunscreen, sunglasses, water, snacks, layers, hat, and watch. All persons on the water are advised to wear life jackets.

## ***Dock Days***

At least one person from each member family is required to participate at both the Spring and Fall Dock Days. In the event



of an unavoidable scheduling conflict, it is the responsibility of the member to notify the Commodore in advance of their inability to attend and to discuss an alternate assignment.

### *Final Words*

The members of the Otsego Sailing Club pride ourselves on being part of a welcoming, family-oriented community of people who enjoy sailing and spending time on Otsego Lake. Sustaining this environment requires respect towards other members, the lake, and club property. Throughout its history, the club has owed its existence to members who routinely volunteer to do more than the minimum required. Nearly everything we do is done by members volunteering their time and energy and serving on the club's various committees.

Enjoy your time spent at the club, on the lake, in the company of other members, and helping out whenever you are able.