

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of Central Ohio

Galley Gossip

JANUARY 2026

VOL. 63, NO. 9

DISTRICT 29



Monthly Newsletter for Sail, Power, and Paddle Boaters

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, January 8th 6:30 PM
ABC of Central Ohio Clubhouse
8492 Cotter Street, Lewis Center, OH 43035

This is your opportunity to review and vote for the new ABC of Central Ohio Bridge and Executive Committee. You will also participate in reviewing the proposed new bylaws and the 2026 budget for our Squadron. For those who have not seen the "new and improved" Headquarters, this will be your chance to view all the changes.

Pizza, Salad, and Drinks will be provided by the squadron at no charge.

Please **RSVP** NOT LATER THAN Tuesday, Jan. 6th, so that we can plan for the food and drinks.

To make your reservation online:

www.columbussailandpower.org

You can also leave a message by phone at **614 598-6709** or email at sue_gelz@yahoo.com



CHANGE OF WATCH

Saturday, January 24, 2026 6-10 PM
Boat House at Confluence Park
679 West Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio

The Change of Watch ceremony is the transfer of responsibility and authority for America's Boating Club of Central Ohio from Commander Michael Hughes to incoming Commander Jason Mack. It is a formal and sobering ritual, conducted before the assembled company of our organization, as well as honored guests and dignitaries.

Hors d'Oeuvres from 6-7 PM

Vegetable Spring Roll • Coconut Shrimp • Turkey Meatball Skewer • Tomato Bruschetta

Buffet Service Begins at 7 PM

House mixed green salad with Smokey Tomato Vinaigrette
Buttered Rolls • Garlic Chicken • Rosemary Bistro Filet
Garlic Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans
Dessert to be served • White Chocolate Raspberry Cake

There will be a 3-hour deluxe beverage package from 6-9 PM Note: After 9 PM, the bar will become a cash-only bar

Cost: \$35. Per person • **Attire:** Semi-Formal

Please **RSVP** to Sue Goelz NOT LATER THAN January 9, at **614 598-6709** or by email at sue_gelz@yahoo.com or at the website, www.columbussailandpower.org

Please consider inviting family, potential members, and boating enthusiasts for an elegant and entertaining evening.



Galley Gossip



Official Publication of America's Boating Club of Central Ohio

Cdr Michael Hughes, JN-IN

Janet A. Hern - janethern@icloud.com

Commander

Editor

Chartered 1940 • Hdq.: 8492 Cotter St., Lewis Center, Ohio 43035-7139 • 614 427-2400

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CALENDAR of COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2026

1 Thu	NEW YEAR'S DAY
8 Thu	Happy Hour/Pizza Party/Election Night ABC Clubhouse 6:30 pm
9-18 Fri-Sun	Columbus Boat and RV Show, Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17th Ave, Columbus
19 Mon	Galley Gossip articles due
24 Sat	Change of Watch Boat House at Confluence Park 679 W Spring St., Columbus
27 Tue	Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse or by Zoom 7 pm Change of Bridge Ceremony
31 Sat	New Member Orientation Beta Test ABC Clubhouse and by Zoom 1-5 PM

FEBRUARY

5 Thu	Happy Hour/Dinner CAP CITY Diner Dublin, OH 7 pm
8-15 Sun-Sun	2026 America's Boating Club Annual Meeting Embassy Suites Kingston, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
16 Mon	Galley Gossip articles due
24 Tue	Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse or by Zoom 7 PM

MARCH

5 Thursday	Happy Hour/Dinner TBD
16 Monday	Galley Gossip articles due
24 Tuesday	Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse or by Zoom 7 PM

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF CENTRAL OHIO

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons • 1185-29 • Chartered 1940

Commander	Cdr Michael Hughes, JN-IN	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Lt/C Jason Mack, P	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Admin Officer	Lt/C Sue Goelz, S	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Squadron Ed. Officer	R/C Bob Rayburn, SN-IN	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Secretary	P/C John Seaver, SN	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lt/C Mari Seaver, S	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Asst Secretary	Tom Doyle, P	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Asst Admin Officers	Sheryl Mack, P and Janet Hern, S	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Asst SEO & Chaplain	Mary Rayburn, P	Flag Lieutenant
Past Commander	P/C Bob Goelz, S	Vessel Safety Check
Member-at-Large	Lt Bob Hern, S	Historian
Member-at-Large	Lt Michael T. Hughes, AP	Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large	Lt David Keller, S	Debbie Crothers, S
Member-at-Large	David Crothers, S	P/Lt/C Ruth Wilcox, S



Secretary

P/C John Seaver, SN

Printing & Distribution

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Submit name or address changes to the Information Center in the Members Only section of the USPS website.

"GALLEY GOSSIP" is published 10 times a year for the members of the America's Boating Club of Central Ohio. **Deadline for receiving articles is the first of the month for the following month's publication.** Articles of information can be e-mailed to: janethern@icloud.com.

www.columbussailandpower.org

Please Note:

Pictures may be taken at America's Boating Club of Central Ohio events. If you do not want your picture published in the *Galley Gossip* newsletter and/or posted on the club Facebook page, please inform the photographer.

Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr Michael Hughes, JN-IN



As many of you may know, Tracy and I are building a home in Sunset Bay in eastern Tennessee. Our subdivision features a private marina with two covered docks and approximately 260 slips. On December 1, the marina experienced a fire that took out 4 boats and a good section of A-Dock. Thank goodness there were no bodily injuries. The 4 boats burned to the waterline, and two of them sank. Several other boats received severe damage. While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, it is suspected that a clamp-on light was being used as a heat source inside an engine compartment to keep it from freezing until the boat could be winterized.

At America's Boating Club of Central Ohio, you can learn to winterize your boat by taking our engine maintenance class. Knowledge of what happens during the winterization process will save you money if you feel comfortable enough to do it yourself, or at least provide you with the steps a



boat shop goes through each fall. Marine Electrical Systems will prepare you for the use, care, and maintenance of your boat's electrical systems. A good example is not using interior extension cords for exterior purposes as they are not rated for moisture and heavy loads. You may also wish to take part in the seminar on Marine Batteries. You will learn about the types of batteries and their charging systems; how the power is distributed among the boat components, and proper cable sizing and fault-finding techniques in case your battery isn't charging.

Maybe you have already taken these classes and seminars; however, your dock neighbors may not be as knowledgeable. Are they using an interior extension cord to provide power to their automotive-designed battery charger? As you walk to your boat next summer, pay attention to the electric cables as you pass them. Are they grounded? Is there fraying on the cord? Electric and water do not mix. Have you seen oily rags lying around the dock? Do you smell gas fumes or see an oil slick around a boat? Other people's poor maintenance practices can lead to problems for your boat. Don't let a fire ruin your summer.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Jason Mack, P



Ahoy! What an amazing event this past Friday at the Morgan House. I wanted to thank the Hoefts again for their incredible boating adventure stories and experiences on the Great Loop. We all look forward to learning more about their trips over the next boating season.

I also want to thank the Toledo Sail and Power Squadron for hosting and inviting Sheryl and me to their Christmas party at the Carranor Hunt and Polo Club in Perrysburg. The evening was filled with fantastic conversation and food to celebrate the Toledo squadron being the largest in District 29.

When I joined the Central Ohio squadron several years ago, I really thought that I knew a great deal about boating. Wow! Was I poorly mistaken? The classes I have taken taught me so many things. At the Fall District meeting, I took a class on battery maintenance. The big takeaway learned is that the big battery charger I have been using for the past couple of decades is not the correct trickle charger for today's batteries. I have burned out the batteries for our boat in 1-2 years instead of the expected 3-4 years. The charger I was using was not a smart charger, meaning the charger would



continuously charge. Under my Christmas tree this year is a Noco Genius 1 smart battery charger that will turn off automatically when the battery is charged, vs the old charger that constantly charges and damages the battery. I am anxious to see how well this new one will work.

The big-ticket item that is under the tree this year is a new Garmin Chart Plotter/GPS unit.

After taking chart plotting and navigation classes with Bob Rayburn, Matt Murphy, and Ralph Newman, and discussing the need to know just where you are on the water, it will be a nice addition to the boat from our old black and white GPS unit. The new unit will have full-color screens and many features and benefits. I am looking forward to learning how this will work for a safe boating trip.

There are a lot of new courses coming up, so please review the website for a course that you find interesting. More than likely, you may also find the need to upgrade some equipment on your own boat.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting at the Clubhouse on January 8th and at the Change of Watch on January 24th. Anchors away!



January always feels like a new beginning, but as the new year arrives, it reminds us to review the events of the past year.

2025 has been a growth year for America's Boating Club of Central Ohio. We have had some great activities, including happy hours/dinners, the Orange Township 4th of July Parade, the Delaware County Fair, exciting boat trips, and adventures. There have been many opportunities to increase our boating skills through both online and in-person education.



All of this would not be possible without the many members who volunteer to make this a great organization. I personally want to thank every volunteer for giving of both their time and effort to our organization.

As we start this new year, we will be holding our **"Annual Meeting"**. Details are on the front page of this *Galley Gossip*. In addition, there is the **"Change of Watch"** also listed on the front page. Change of Watch is a formal event and is our time to dress up, have fun, and welcome our new Bridge and Executive Committee.

We look forward to having you join us for these special events.



Join us January 24 at The Boathouse for the ABC of Central Ohio Change of Watch.

2026 Central Ohio Squadron Boating Trips

The planning committee met on November 18th. This was an amazing turnout with a generous supply of ideas and volunteer commitments. The following boat trips are being planned for Summer 2026:

June 6	Tackle Box (Rain date is June 13)	Trip leader, Phil Osborne
June 27-28	Salt Fork	Trip leader, Jason Mack
July 2-5	Huron Boat Basin (District 29)	Trip leader, Loriann Czerniejewski
July 10-12	Powhatan Point to Marietta	Trip leader, Phil Osborne
July 25	Alum Creek Lake	Trip leader, Bob Goelz
August 5-11	Lake Charlevoix	Trip leader, David Keller
August 29	Muskingum River	Trip leader, Phil Osborne
Sept 9-16	Lake Cumberland	Trip leader, Jow Huffman

As arrangements are completed, additional information will be published in the *Galley Gossip* and on the website at www.columbussailandpower.org. Don't have a boat or don't tow your boat? Many members would be delighted to have you as a passenger, so if you still care to participate, please contact the trip leader for assistance in finding a ride.



We are in the deep freeze! This is a great time to stay inside and keep warm. You can socialize with fellow boaters by taking one of the courses available in January and February. Look at the available options on the website and sign up for a fast and easy selection. Sailing, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems, and Cruising Under Power and Sail are all options to fill your learning needs. If we are offering something you are interested in taking, let me know. We will do our best to accommodate your interests. Check out the website for more information.

<https://www.columbussailandpower.org>

Our Marine Navigation Course is starting on February 2, 2026. This course will be taught virtu-



ally and in person. Members from other squadrons are welcome to join this course. If you know a fellow boater who needs a strong introduction to electronic and paper charts, please encourage them to sign up for the course.

Remember that the days are slowly getting longer, and before you know it, we will be preparing our boats. Prep yourself first to ensure a more enjoyable boating season. Looking forward to seeing you in class.

Schedule of Classes 2026

MARINE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS
MARINE NAVIGATION
ENGINE MAINTENANCE
SAILING
ABC
CRUISING UNDER SAIL AND POWER
ABC
BOAT HANDLING
TRAILERING AND TRAILER TUNE-UP
WEATHER FOR BOATERS

Wednesdays	January 21-March 18
Mondays	February 2-March 30
Mondays	February 2-March 9
Wednesdays	February 4-May 6
Saturday	February 21
Tuesdays	March 10-April 28
Saturdays	April 18 & April 25
Mondays	May 4-June 8
Tuesday	May 12 (Seminar)
Wednesday	May 20 (Seminar)

Farewell

Bob Van Der Wissel is moving to Florida on January 18th .



David Stacy

John Seaver

SICK BAY

Betty Ladd - District 29

Did you know?

You can go to www.usps.org/member.home to renew your membership online? You can also update your member profile to include changes to your address, phone number, or email, as well as to update your achievements, participation, and education. When on the website, look for your profile on the right side of the page. Click on your name, then select "My Account"; to view your profile and make any necessary updates or changes.

LAST HORIZON

Former member, **Dave Wells** crossed the Bridge on Dec 10th. A celebration of life will be held on Dec 20th in Westerville. Check the *Columbus Dispatch* for details.



Merit Marks



For many years, club member activities performed on behalf of America's Boating Club of Central Ohio, were evaluated, submitted to Headquarters for Merit Mark approval, and finally tallied for the squadron by Bob Van Der Wissel. Bob will be leaving the Central Ohio squadron shortly, moving to his new home in sunny Florida. Debbie Stohl, has graciously accepted this role and will be Bob's replacement. Debbie joined our squadron early in 2025. She lives in Delaware, Ohio, frequents boating club events, and loves spending time on the water with her best pals, David and Maggie Keller. Debbie's vocation as a realtor brings to our club, additional business and sales/marketing expertise.

The club's Merit Mark submissions are reported annually on November 1st. Each member should have 25 hours to qualify for submission. In 2025, thirty-two of our squadron members logged 1,670 hours.

Note that it is only possible to earn one Merit Mark per year, no matter the number of hours you log as a volunteer. America's Boating Club national organization awards the Merit Marks via email. Certificates can be printed as needed from the email. Merit Marks can also be purchased as a Gold Bar for uniforms from the national Yacht Club suppliers.

To earn Merit Marks, one must be a current dues-paying member of the Boating Club. Members must submit their volunteer hours and activity functions.

Submissions are made via:

- The sign-in book at the Club Headquarters.
- Emails to the Merit Mark Committee Chair, Debbie.Stohl@gmail.com
- The *Galley Gossip* Executive Committee members list
- Personal phone calls to the Commander or other members who can vouch for and enter your earned hours toward Merit Marks

Activities that DO qualify for Merit Marks:

- Teaching a class
- Proctoring or grading papers at classes or Seminars
- Any additional help assisting with classes.
- Working at Boat Shows, whether working the booth or assisting in set up/take-down, and/or working with Coastie.
- Conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) or helping with setup and signage at VSC and Safe Boating Week activities
- Assistance with Squadron, District, or National events

- Attending meetings as a Member of the Executive Committee and Bridge
- Serving on a Committee and helping with its functions and responsibilities
- Organizing and preparing for rendezvous, either by boat or on land

Remember to include any hours spent driving to and from activities that qualify for Merit Marks, as well as time spent on phone calls or emails.

Activities that do NOT qualify for Merit Marks

- Being a student in a class or Seminar
- Attending a Dinner meeting, when not part of the organizing, etc.
- Attending any Rendezvous as a participant when not having been involved in the planning or organizing of that event.

Should you have any questions, please contact Debbie Stohl at 614-2049291 or by email at: debbie.stohl@gmail.com

To avoid a last-minute rush for Debbie to report the submissions to the Area Monitor, please email a monthly report of your volunteer hours. The only written requirement is the date, total activity hours, and a breakdown of the activity, which includes travel time, phone calls, and emails.

For volunteer hours from November 2nd to the end of the year, please include those with submissions for the following year.

Welcome aboard, Debbie, and thank you to all the squadron members who volunteered their time and effort. 2025 was a very successful year for our Central Ohio squadron.

2025 Merit Mark hours logged:

Tracy Garrett	175	Bob Goelz	45
Mari Seaver	127	Ruth Wilcox	45
Janet Hern	114	Jessica Garrett	35
John Pruitt	90	Michael T. Hughes	35
Bob Rayburn	85	Joe Huffman	35
John Seaver	75	Ralph Newman	32
Jason Mack	75	Charlotte Mohr	32
Sheryl Mack	75	Phil Osborne	25
David Keller	62	Tom Schmersal	25
Tom Doyle	58	William Biegler	25
Matt Murphy	55	Dick Sorensen	20
Debbie Stohl	55	Nahum Burt	19
Sue Goelz	46	Perry Mohr	18
Debbie Crothers	45	Deborah Rhodes	18
David Crothers	45	Joe Rhodes	18
Bob Hern	45	Linda Huffman	16

ABC/Central Ohio

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Coastie

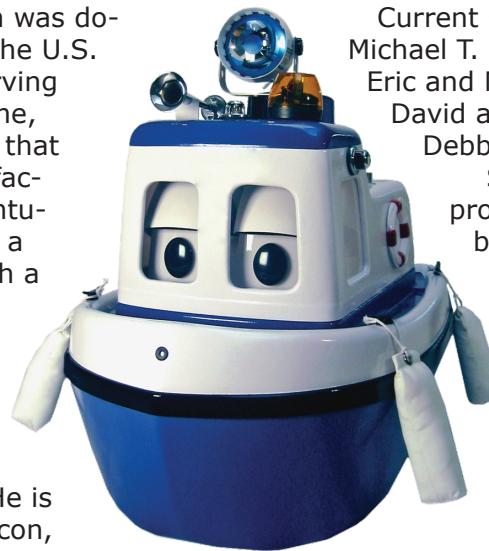
Have you met Coastie, the mascot of the Central Ohio Squadron of America's Boating Club? Coastie was originally manufactured by Robotronic of Springville, Utah. The first version was donated to the Power Squadron by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after serving them for 17 years. During that time, the Corps made several upgrades that caught the attention of the manufacturer. When Coastie's motors eventually failed, the Squadron acquired a new and improved version through a \$15,000 grant written by squadron member and attorney David Canale.

Coastie has a friendly, cartoon-like appearance and impressive mobility, making him especially popular with children. He is equipped with searchlights, a beacon, a siren, an air horn, and expressive eyes and eyelids. Coastie talks, plays music, and actively interacts with children during boating and water safety presentations. He can even squirt kids who get a little too rough or try to pick on him, much to everyone's delight.

Although Coastie has traveled to New York, Washington, D.C., and California, his 120-pound frame makes local appearances more practical. In 2025, he marched in the Lewis Center Parade and greeted visitors of all ages at the Delaware County Fair. Coastie has also been a long-time favorite at the Ohio RV and Boat Show, where he even earns a paycheck for his performances.

So, what does Coastie want his fans to know? First, he tells everyone that it's his birthday—and that he's five years old. This helps children relate to him and often leads to birthday songs and well-wishes. Once Coastie has everyone's attention, he delivers important boating and water safety messages. He stresses the importance of always wearing a life jacket and teaches the rule: "Reach and throw, but never go in." This lesson shows children how to help someone in trouble in the water without putting themselves at risk. Coastie also reminds everyone to "always swim with a buddy in a supervised area."

Coastie has dedicated "parents" who transport him to events and bring him to life using a remote-control system and a voice-changing microphone. While Michael Hughes and Tracy Garrett were the



original Coastie parents, a recent training class has added new volunteers, allowing Coastie to appear at even more events.

Current Coastie parents include Bob Hern, Michael T. Hughes, Jason and Sheryl Mack, Eric and Marla Hoeft, Joe and Debbie Rhodes, David and Melanie Stacy, and David and Debbie Crothers.

Since Coastie began his educational programs in 1996, he has likely taught boating and water safety to thousands of children and has undoubtedly helped save more lives than anyone will ever know.

Be sure to say "hello" to Coastie when you see him at the Ohio RV and Boat Show. He will be there on January 10 and 11 and January 17 and 18, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

VOTE!

America's Boating Club of Central Ohio State of Officers and Members at Large for Calendar Year 2026

Commander	Jason Mack, P
Executive Officer	Sue Goelz, S
Administrative Officer	Sheryl Mack, P
Asst Administrative Officer ..	Melanie Stacy
Education Officer	Robert Rayburn, SN-IN
Asst Administrative Officer ..	Matthew Murphy, IN
Secretary	John Seaver, SN
Treasurer	Mari Seaver, S
Past Commander	Michael Hughes, SN-IN
Members at Large:	
Ralph Newman, SN	
Deborah Rhodes	
Joseph Rhodes	
Debbie Crothers	Comm. Chair, Bylaws
David Crothers	
Michael T. Hughes, AP	Law Resource Chair
David Keller, S	Membership Chair
Debbie Stohl	Merit Marks Chair

Voting takes place on January 6 th at 6:30 at Headquarters. (See page 1 for details)

Christmas Party



AMERICA'S
BOATING
CLUB
CENTRAL OHIO







America's Boating Club of Central Ohio
P/C John Seaver, SN
8492 Cotter St.
Lewis Center, OH 43035



Beidel — *Terrie Lynn*



Hughes/Garrett/Mohr — *At Last*



Crothers — *New Moon*



Hughes — *Singularity*



Goelz — *Secondwind*



Rayburn — *Tool-n-Around*



Fannon — *Aquatron*



Hern — *Last Hurrah*

**Show off your pride
and joy here!
Join the *Galley Gossip*
Sponsors Club today!**

Bob Van der Wissel — *Sojourner*
Hughes-Garrett-Mohr Clan — *At Last*
Bob & Sue Goelz — *Secondwind*
Bob & Mary Rayburn — *Tool-n-Around*
Martha Beidel — *Terrie Lynn*

David & Melissa Fannon — *Aquatron*
Barbara Hupman — *The Boat*
Michael T. Hughes — *Singularity*
Bob & Janet Hern — *Last Hurrah*
David & Debbie Crothers — *New Moon*

Renew now: **Galley Gossip Sponsors Club**

It's time to renew your Galley Gossip Sponsors Club boat name and picture.

The *Galley Gossip* newsletter is published monthly from September to June. Your \$20. Contribution will receive a full ten months of sponsorship beginning in the March 2026 issue. Please send a check for \$20 made payable to Columbus Sail and Power Squadron 8492 Cotter Street, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035, or pay in person at the January 8th Election Night/Pizza party. Include a picture and print your Boat Name as it should appear, indicating upper and lower case letters and spaces between names. Limit is 30 characters. Show off your pride and joy while sponsoring our award-winning, monthly newsletter.

Your name: _____

Boat name: _____

If you have any questions, please e-mail Janet Hern at janethern@icloud.com.

