

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB of Central Ohio Galley Gossip



FEBRUARY 2026

VOL. 63, NO. 10

DISTRICT 29

Monthly Newsletter for Sail, Power, and Paddle Boaters

Happy Hour/Dinner Meeting Thursday, February 5th — 7pm-9:00 pm

CAP CITY Diner - Dublin Bridge Park

6644 Riverside Drive Dublin, Ohio

7:00-7:30 Social

7:30-9:00 Dinner and Meeting

Please note the change in time for this meeting, only

Each member will choose from the CAP CITY menu and pay their own tab.

RSVP to Sheryl Mack or online at

www.columbussailandpower.org

not later than Feb 2nd.



A NEW SPIN ON
Old School

CLASSIC COMFORT FOOD
MADE MODERN

Ship's Store

Purchase high quality ABC of Central Ohio logo apparel from Land's End. To view items, go to

<https://business.landsend.com/store/abccentralohio>

or to speak with a customer service representative about size, color, or logo appearance, call 800 338-2000.





Galley Gossip



Official Publication of America's Boating Club of Central Ohio

Cdr Jason Mack, P

Janet A. Hern - janethern@icloud.com

Commander

Editor

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

America's Boating Club® and logo are trademarks of the United States Power Squadrons®.

CALENDAR of COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 5 Thu Happy Hour/Dinner CAP CITY Diner 6644 Riverside Dr. Dublin, OH 7 pm
*Note the change in time for this dinner meeting only.
- 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 Thu Happy Hour/Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm Local Roots 15 E. Olentangy St. Powell
- 16 Mon *Galley Gossip* articles due
- 24 Tue Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse or by Zoom 7 pm
- 27-29 Fri-Sun District 29 Spring Conference Holiday Inn Express Sandusky, OH

APRIL

- 2 Thu Happy Hour/Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm Mimi's Café 1428 Polaris Pkwy Columbus
- 20 Mon *Galley Gossip* articles due
- 28 Tue Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse or by Zoom 7 pm

MAY

- 7 Thu Happy Hour/Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm Senor Antonio's
8617 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center
- 18 Mon *Galley Gossip* articles due
- 26 Tue Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse or by Zoom 7 pm

JUNE

- 4 Thu Pot Luck 6:00 pm New Galena Boat Ramp/Shelter
Alum Creek State Park, 4550 Africa Rd Galena
- 6 Sat Tackle Box Rendezvous

2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF CENTRAL OHIO

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

Commander	Cdr Jason Mack, P	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Lt/C Sue Goelz, S	americasboatingclubcentralohio@gmail.com
Admin Officer	Lt/C Sheryl Mack, 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 Admin Officer	Melanie Stacy, S	
Asst SEO	Lt Matt Murphy, JN	Flag Lieutenant P/C Phil Osborne, JN-IN
Past Commander	P/C Michael S. Hughes, SN-IN	Vessel Safety Check John Pruitt, AP
		Historian Martha Beidel

Member-at-Large	Ralph Newman, SN	Member-at-Large	Michael T. Hughes, AP (Law Resource Chair)
Member-at-Large	Deborah Rhodes, S	Member-at-Large	Lt David Keller, S (Membership Chair)
Member-at-Large	David Crothers, S	Member-at-Large	Debbie Stohl, S (Merit Marks)
Member-at-Large	Debbie Crothers, S (Bylaws Chair)		



Secretary

P/C John Seaver, SN

Printing & Distribution

DC Alphagraphics
614-297-1200

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 Jason Mack, P



Ahoy! As I reflect on this past weekend, I want to thank our outgoing administration again personally for what a wonderful 2025 year we had. I tip my hat to the leadership provided by Michael Hughes during his command.

What an amazing time we all had at the Boat House and Change of Watch ceremony. The list of individuals that I need to thank is quite extensive, as I found firsthand exactly how involved it was to plan such an event. I wanted to specifically thank Kathy Runner, Michael Hughes, Tracy Garrett, and Bob and Sue Goelz for all their help in making the event a success and a lot of fun (I only wished that the weather had been a little more cooperative). My goal, as your new



Commander of the squadron, is to live up to the honor that you all have put in me to help lead our organization into the future of 2026.

At the Change of Watch reception, I introduced a theme and really would request that everyone share in the same enthusiasm as I will to make sure that we let others know that **You're Invited!** I want to encourage others to come to our next dinner party, explore a new class offering, become a vessel safety instructor, or participate in any one of our other functions. Again, **You're Invited!** to join us on all the adventures that the club is offering. If you can think of an activity that we aren't already doing and you would like to see implemented, please tell me, and I will work with our board to make the idea a reality.

With everyone's help, I am confident that we can push our group forward and excel to new heights in 2026! Anchors Away!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Sue Goelz, S



Wow – It is February already. It might just be time to start counting the days until boating season begins!

We have had an eventful December and January with the squadron holiday party, annual membership meeting, and the most recent Change of Watch. Hope everyone had fun and met some new people and friends. Now it sounds tempting to crawl into our caves and hibernate! Wait!

What else could we be doing in these next few months besides just waiting for the warm weather to return? This is the "boating education season"! Look at the number of classes our Education Officer, Bob Rayburn, has planned. By my count, there are 10 different programs available between now



and the end of May. Some are in-person, others are virtual, and still others are online seminars. Ask your boating friends and neighbors to join you. You could emerge from this off-season as more educated and safer boaters, and you would have used your time more wisely than you

would have by watching Netflix. (Although maybe I might choose to do both.)

Stay warm and safe, and we'll see you on the water in just a few months.



Check out the videos:

www.americasboatingchannel.com

WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL

<https://youtu.be/KgiahkSKWgI>

Viewers learn the benefits of wearing them while boating. Also featured are tips to consider when buying a new life jacket.

PARTNER IN COMMAND

<https://youtu.be/FPKnrHTh4c4>

Covers skills passengers need to master to take the helm if their boat operator becomes incapacitated. Learn about emergencies on board, as well as tips for communicating and safely returning to port.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Sheryl Mack, P



Welcome to my first article as the new Administrative Officer. First, I want to thank Sue Goelz, as outgoing AO, for her leadership and contributions to the club this past year. She planned some wonderful events that everyone enjoyed. I'm sure I will be reaching out to her for some guidance throughout this year.



I am excited for the new year and am already planning some great new restaurant locations and fun activities along with Assistant AO, Melanie Stacy.

Our first event will be at the Cap City Diner at Bridge Park in Dublin on February 5th at 7 pm. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

If you have any restaurant or activity suggestions you would like to see planned, please let me know. Also, if you would be interested in speaking at one of the social events about a past or upcoming boating trip, or if you know someone who would like to speak to the group, please reach out.

Please be sure to RSVP for each upcoming event either online at <https://www.columbus-sailandpower.org/social-dinner-meetings> or by texting me at 614-578-2599 or by email at sheryl.h.mack@gmail.com.

It should be a great year! See you all soon!



Nicholas Pastis
Jonathan Hollander
Debbie Murphy

Jessica Garrett
Robert Rayburn

SICK BAY

Diane Doyle

Debbie Murphy

LAST HORIZON

P/C/ Bob Van Der Wissel - Jan. 23, 2026

2026 Central Ohio Squadron Boating Trips

Summer 2026 planned boating trips and rendezvous are listed below. 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.

June 6	Tackle Box (Rain date is June 13)
June 27-28	Salt Fork
July 2-5	Huron Boat Basin (District 29)
July 10-12	Powhatan Point to Marietta
July 25	Alum Creek Lake
August 5-11	Lake Charlevoix
August 29	Muskingum River
Sept 9-16	Lake Cumberland

Trip leader, Phil Osborne
Trip leader, Jason Mack
Trip leader, Loriann Czerniejewski
Trip leader, Phil Osborne
Trip leader, Bob Goelz
Trip leader, David Keller
Trip leader, Phil Osborne
Trip leader, Joe Huffman



There are fewer than 100 days before the start of Boating Season 2026. It's time now to help fellow boaters expand their knowledge with a variety of Spring classes. Class dates and times are listed below, and a new flyer highlighting the spring classes is attached. ABC, the one-day class scheduled for Saturday, February 21st, currently has seven registrations. I can use some assistance in presenting this class, so contact me if you would be interested in assisting and adding hours toward 2026 Merit Marks.

Our classrooms have been modernized to allow for virtual training. This allows us to accommodate



students who would otherwise not attend for various reasons, including time or distance. Marine Navigation and Sailing classes can be in-person or virtual. Our instructors are seasoned boaters, adding their real-life experiences for our students.

I encourage all members to add our class information to their Social Media sites and INVITE boating friends and acquaintances to join our organization.

To learn more or register, go to www.columbussailandpower.org. To volunteer, please write to r.e.rayburn@sbc.global.net and include VOLUNTEER in the subject line.

Schedule of Classes 2026

MARINE NAVIGATION	Monday Eves.	February 2-March 30
ENGINE MAINTENANCE	Monday Eves.	February 2-March 9
SAILING	Wednesday Eves.	February 4-May 6
ABC (America's Boating Course)	Saturday	February 21
CRUISING UNDER SAIL AND POWER	Tuesday Eves.	March 10-April 28
BOAT HANDLING	Wednesday Eves.	May 4-June 8
TRAILERING AND TRAILER TUNE-UP	Tuesday	May 12 (In-Person Seminar)
WEATHER FOR BOATERS	Wednesday	May 20 (In-Person Seminar)
BOATING ON LAKES, LOCKS, & RIVERS	Thursday	May 21 (Virtual Seminar)
PADDLE SMART	Wednesday	May 27 (Virtual Seminar)

See the full listing of SEMINARS on page 11.

Important Membership Info

USPS changed its computer system this year to IMIS. Some information did not transfer over from the old system. Please take a few minutes to check your own record for errors.

1. Go to www.USPS.org and log in to the membership portal with your credentials. User-names can be either your email address of record or your certificate number. If this is your first time logging in, click on "forgot password" to create your password. Your password must contain 7 characters and include at least one letter and one number.

2. Under your name in the top bar, click My Account.

3. Your record will come up with several tabs.

a) "About Me" shows your demographics, email, phone, mailing address, and who you are associated with. You can edit this information on your own.

b) "Participation" shows which squadron you

are attached to, when your dues are to be paid, and copies of invoices or receipts.

c) "Preferences" are what publications and emails you wish to receive from National. You can change your password here and add a payment method for future dues.

d) "Achievements" include grade, rank, merit marks received, vessel examiner numbers, total years paying dues, and certified instructor information.

e) "Education" shows the classes and seminars you have taken, along with the date.

f) "Past Jobs" lists all positions you have held with the squadron, district, or national. If any of your information is missing or incorrect, it can be fixed by sending an email to Yvonne Hill at hilly@hq.usps.org. Please include your full name and E# with a phone number in case she needs to reach you. Include what is missing or incorrect in the email.

ABC/Central Ohio MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Sheryl & Jason Mack

Meet Jason and Sheryl Mack, our newly elected Commander and Administrative Officer of the America's Boating Club® of Central Ohio. While it may seem like they've been part of our club forever—thanks to their constant participation and enthusiastic involvement—they actually joined just over two years ago, in October 2023.

Their journey to membership began in a simple and very modern way: a social media post. Jason and Sheryl saw an announcement about a picnic at Alum Creek and decided to check it out. What they found was a welcoming group of friendly, fun people who shared their passion for boating. They soon signed up for a Boat Handling class, where they met fellow newcomers Melanie and David Stacy. After attending Oktoberfest at Schmidt's, the decision was easy—they officially joined. And we are very glad they did!

Boating has long been part of both their lives. Jason grew up in the Toledo area, where his parents introduced him to boating and enrolled him in his first America's Boating Club class. His family later owned a home on Devil's Lake in Michigan, transitioning from a speedboat to a pontoon, while Jason spent summers tubing and water skiing. Sheryl grew up in Brook Park, Ohio. The two met at Gatsby's in Gahanna in the winter of 1998 and married in 2000.

Shortly after their marriage, they purchased their first—and still only—boat from Paul's Marine: a 1996 21' open-bow Four Winns powered by a 4.3-liter V6 Volvo Penta. Fittingly named Choose

Wisely, this boat has proven its worth. Nearly 30 years old, it remains in excellent condition and has cruised the waters of Alum Creek, Caesar Creek, and Buckeye Lake. Sixteen years ago, the Macks dis-

covered Norris Lake and knew they had found their boating home. They eventually purchased property there and recently discovered that their lot is just 28 lots away from fellow members Michael Hughes and Tracy Garrett. Small world, indeed!

Jason and Sheryl have one son, Daniel, who has been boating since he was old enough to sit in a car seat. Over the years, he learned to ski and tube and earned his ODNR boating license at just 11 years old. The Macks are looking forward to Daniel's wedding to his fiancée, Lindsey, in October

2026 and fully expect the next generation to carry on the family boating tradition.

At the end of 2025, Jason and Sheryl retired from their professional careers. Sheryl brought 22 years of organizational and project management experience at

Johnson Controls, while Jason spent 17 plus years with JPMorgan Chase, building a strong financial background. Their plan now? To redirect the same energy they devoted to their careers—often more than 50 hours a week—into revitalizing the Columbus Sail and Power Squadron by growing membership, increasing community engagement, and strengthening boating education. And above all, they want everyone to have fun.

Retirement will also include plenty of travel, starting with the America's Boating Club National Conference in Myrtle Beach this February, followed by a two-week cruise in New Zealand in October and another two-week land adventure in Australia.

As Commander and Administrative Officer, Jason and Sheryl hope to see every member play a role in growing the club. Imagine the impact if each of us invited just one or two new people to experience the friendship, learning, and enjoyment that define the America's Boating Club® of Central Ohio.

Please join us in congratulating Jason and Sheryl on their well-earned retirements—and even more so, in welcoming and supporting them in their new America's Boating Club leadership roles.



Bungle Jug Award

Have you ever noticed the 5-gallon stone jugs on top of the bookcases at the clubhouse? A closer look reveals several rows of names, each with a corresponding year. The Bungle Jug award is given in fun, and sometimes with a pun, each year to a member who had a difficult or embarrassing experience with their boat on a large body of water.

Sheryl Mack is the 2025 Bungle Jug winner.



David Keller recounts Sheryl's story and why she received the award.

This happened on our way back from Torch Lake when we reached the boat ramp. We had about six boats that needed to be loaded onto trailers, so several of them had to wait. Sheryl had dropped off Jason so he could retrieve the trailer, then waited nearby, floating near the ramp.

Unfortunately, the waiting area was close to a field of stumps marked by a few floating markers. It was also a windy day, and the wind was pushing boats toward the stump area. As a result, Sheryl drifted too close to one of the markers, which was using a fender as a float to indicate danger. The rope attached to it became tangled in their prop, stalling the engine and preventing it from restarting.

Others quickly came to her aid and helped move the boat over to the ramp. There, they were able to load it onto the trailer, where they discovered a cinder block tied to the rope. With the stern still in the water, they cut the rope and cinder block free from the prop without causing any damage. After that, the engine started right up, and it appeared that no harm had been done.

Still, it's not often you get to snag a cinder block with your stern drive.



River Rat Award

Michael Hughes is the 2025 recipient of this award.

After some time in storage, the Hughes Garrett Mohr-clan boat, *At Last*, was set to transport ABC members and guests participating in the July Poker Run at Buckeye Lake. However, after launch, *At Last* failed to start and required a tow to a local marine repair facility. It seems that Michael, who has long held the position of ABC Boat Maintenance instructor, had recently done some maintenance on his own boat. Whatever the cause, of the maintenance issue and failure to launch, the Poker Run was still a success with Barbara Hupman's pontoon and Jason Mack's boat taking on the extra passengers. As Michael states, "If you haven't won the award, you probably haven't been boating enough!"









2026 Member of the Years

Awarded to: Matthew Murphy

Matthew Murphy was recognized at the 2026 Change of Watch for his outstanding contributions, leadership, and alignment with the organizational values of the Central Ohio Chapter of America's Boating Club. Matthew made a significant impact on our club since becoming a member in 2001. Besides holding 22 Merit Marks, he also holds the educational grade of JN (Junior Navigator). Matthew came to the bridge as a Member at Large. He followed in the chairs of Administrative Officer and Executive Officer, and then served as our Columbus Commander in 2011. In 2013, he served as the Assistant Education Officer and will assume that role again in 2026. Matthew served as the District Liaison Officer in 2014 and as Squadron Liaison Officer from 2010 to 2016. As an instructor, Matthew has taught portions of America's Boating Course, including several solo classes, while residing in Ten-



nessee. He has taught Engine Maintenance and is currently teaching Navigation alongside Ralph Newman. Matthew became a Vessel Safety Examiner in 2007

and has recorded over 225 exams since.

Congratulations, Matt, on receiving this well-deserved award. Thank you for your continued commitment to America's Boating Club of Central Ohio.

2026 New Member of the Year

Awarded to: Janet Hern

Commander Michael Hughes recognized Janet Hern at the 2026 Change of Watch with the New Member of the Year award. Janet joined the squadron in 2021 and completed both the Boat Handling and Engine Maintenance classes. Janet served as a Member at Large. She worked as an assistant AO, assisting with planning monthly meeting speakers, venues, and events. She also attend-



ed Vessel Safety Checks to engage in conversations that would encourage other watercraft owners to join America's Boating Club. More recently, Janet took over the *Galley Gossip* editor duties, working with Melissa Fannon of DC Alpha-graphics to continue producing this award-winning monthly squadron newsletter.

Our Congratulations, Janet, for your dedication and contributions.

Building Skills, Confidence, & Safety on the Water

AIS – Automatic Identification System

- This seminar will
 - Introduce AIS
 - Discuss how AIS works
 - Review classes and types of AIS equipment
 - Explore additional AIS uses
 - Help you understand how AIS can help you avoid collisions and improve navigation



Want to run into this ship in the dark?
Think the helmsman could see you?

GPS for Boaters



Trailer Your Boat



Steps in Navigation

Plan



Navigate



Check



Paddle Smart



Stay in Contact on the Water



Sign up early to secure your spot! Go to: <https://www.columbussailandpower.org/seminars>

Seminars are free to members and \$20 for non-members. All seminars will be held in May. Virtual Seminars include:

- **How to Use a GPS**..... May 6
- **Introduction to Navigation**..... May 13
- **AIS Electronics for Boaters**..... May 14
- **All About VHF/DSC**..... May 19
- **Boating on Lakes, Locks, & Rivers**..... May 21
- **Paddle Smart**..... May 27
- **In Person Training (8492 Cotter Street • Lewis Center, OH)**
- **Trailer Your Boat**..... May 12
- **Weather for Boaters**..... May 20

The Challenge of Gaining Experience

Many boaters try to learn by trial and error. While experience is essential, learning without guidance can be slow—and sometimes risky. Mistakes made on the water can damage boats, docks, or worse, lead to injuries. New boaters often feel overwhelmed by rules, navigation, and handling techniques, while experienced boaters may rely on habits that were never formally taught or updated.

Structured education makes a difference.

Taking Classes with America's Boating Club of Central Ohio is one of the fastest ways to build real-world skills. The Squadron's primary concern is ensuring that both new and experienced boaters receive training that promotes safety and fun on the water.

Benefits for New and Experienced Boaters Alike

New boaters gain a solid foundation that helps them avoid common mistakes and bad habits. They

learn correct techniques early, which leads to faster skill development and greater confidence. Experienced boaters benefit as well. Many discover more efficient docking methods, safer approaches to tight spaces, or updated best practices that improve their overall seamanship. Even seasoned operators often say they wish they had taken a class sooner.

Safety and Fun Go Hand in Hand

When boaters understand their vessels and know how to handle them well, anxiety decreases and enjoyment increases. Confident boat handling allows everyone on board to relax, explore more, and truly appreciate time on the water.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to sharpen your skills, investing in proper small boat handling education is one of the smartest moves a boater can make. With the right training, every outing becomes safer, smoother, and a lot more fun.



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

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



Hughes — Singularity



Goelz — Secondwind



Rayburn — Tool-n-Around



Fannon — Aquatron



Hern — Last Hurrah

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. 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.

