

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB of Central Ohio Galley Gossip



DECEMBER 2025

VOL. 63, NO. 8

DISTRICT 29

Monthly Newsletter for Sail, Power, and Paddle Boaters

Christmas Party Friday, December 12

Social/Shopping Hour: 6 pm

Dinner: 6:45 pm

Presentation: GREAT LOOP EXPERIENCE

by Eric and Marla Hoeft following dinner

Buffet Menu: Beef Tenderloin with Hunter Sauce

Chicken Heinlen with Hollandaise Sauce

Roasted Potatoes & Veggie Medley & House Mixed Salad

Rolls and Butter, Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream

Cost-\$35.00 per person

THE MORGAN HOUSE

• EST. 1985 •

5300 Glick Road, Dublin, OH

RSVP by Monday, December 8th. To make a reservation and pay online, visit www.columbussailand-power.org. If you prefer to pay in person at the dinner meeting, contact Sue Goelz by phone (leave a voice mail message) at 614 598-6709 or by email at sue_goelz@yahoo.com

DECEMBER MEET-UPS

ZOO LIGHTS Friday, December 19th

Meet at Shawnee Station at 5 pm for dinner and drinks before continuing to the Columbus Zoo to view the lights with fellow America's Boating Club members and friends. RSVP with David Keller at 614 900-8790 or david@romerecording.com by December 11th.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA CONCERT Tuesday, December 23rd

Interested in the concert at 7:30 pm at Nationwide Arena? Purchase your tickets in advance, then plan to meet for dinner at 5:30 pm with fellow America's Boating Club members at Buca de Bepo, 343 N. Front St (across from the Nationwide Arena entrance). RSVP to David Keller at 614 900-8790 or david@romerecording.com by Dec 16th. Want to sit near David at the Concert? Look for tickets on the Floor in Section 3, Row N. The best parking: Marconi Parking Garage.

Ship's Store

**Logo attire would
make a great
Christmas Gift!**

Purchase high quality ABC
of Central Ohio logo apparel
from Land's End.





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

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-----|---|
| 7 | Sun | Port Clinton/Sandusky Christmas Party 12 pm Catawba Island Club |
| 12 | Fri | ABC Christmas Party and Shopping Morgan House Dublin 6 pm GREAT LOOP Presentation by Eric and Marla Hoeft |
| 13 | Sat | Toledo Christmas Party 6 pm Perrysburg |
| 15 | Mon | Galley Gossip articles due |
| 16 | Tue | Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse 7 pm |
| 17 | Wed | Sea Gals Christmas Party at Lakes Golf and Country Club 5:30 cocktails 6:00 pm dinner \$60. per person Hurry! Reservations are limited, call Dave Ehrbar 614-746-5811 |
| 19 | Fri | Meet Up at Shawnee Station Restaurant before visiting Zoo Lights |
| 23 | Tue | Meet Up at Buca de Bepo (343 N Front St) before attending the Trans-Siberian Orchestra 7:30 concert |
| 25 | Thu | CHRISTMAS DAY |

JANUARY 2026

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| 1 | Thu | NEW YEAR'S DAY |
| 8 | Thu | Happy Hour/Pizza Party/Election Night ABC Clubhouse 6 pm |
| 9-18 | Fri-Sun | Columbus Boat and RV Show, Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17th Ave, Columbus |
| 24 | Sat | Change of Watch Boat House at Confluence Park 679 W Spring St. |
| 27 | Tue | Executive Committee Meeting ABC Clubhouse 7 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 |

2025-2026 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 |
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| | | Historian Martha Beidel |
| Member-at-Large | Lt Bob Hern, S | |
| Member-at-Large | Lt Michael T. Hughes, AP | Member-at-Large Debbie Crothers, S |
| Member-at-Large | Lt David Keller, S | Member-at-Large P/Lt/C Ruth Wilcox, S |
| Member-at-Large | David Crothers, S | |



Secretary

P/C John Seaver, SN

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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



By this time, our boats are out of the drink and tucked away in some warm location for a long winter's nap. We had a great time at the fall conference in Findlay, Ohio. Columbus' first-timers, Debbie and Joe Rhodes, enjoyed their weekend as our delegates. If you have not attended a conference, ask Joe and Debbie about the fun they had!



This is a good time of year to expand your nautical knowledge by signing up for a seminar or class. We have many opportunities starting soon, and we are always learning. Our social activities are plentiful in December. Register

on the website for these events.

The decision was made to hold the January 8th Annual Elections Night and Business Meeting at headquarters as a pizza and salad night. This is because the Change of Watch also takes place in January. If you are asked to hold an office, give it serious consideration, as we need everyone's help to keep our squadron strong. We will also be awarding several honors.

During our times of member involvement, if you see a new face, go introduce yourself to them. You never know if they boat next to you, live near you, or even have the same type of boat as you. If you have any questions or suggestions, reach out to me. I am here to assist you in any way to make your squadron fellowship and experience more rewarding and pleasant.

Have a beautiful Holiday season!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Jason Mack, P



Ahoy! What an amazing time we had at the recent fall dinner at Old Bag of Nails. We were able to catch up with many friends and swap many stories from our boating experiences from the past summer.

We had a few drinks, great food, and even played a fun game called Majority Rules. A lot of laughs were had by the group from some of the... let's just say, colorful responses. It was a blast, and I am looking forward to making more memories like that in the future with the group.

Another recent activity hosted by Bob Hern was Coastie Training at our clubhouse. A dozen people



took a very informative and fun-filled training on how to operate the flagship icon of our group. From moving Coastie forward and backward, making him spin and dance, how to speak through the PA system, and what coined phrases to say which all emphasized the importance of boating and water safety. Bob had us all laughing and engaged while

learning all the technical workings to make operating the little tugboat a breeze.

Many interesting classes are coming up soon. If you have not been to our website page in a while, please access the website at <https://www.columbussailandpower.org/seminars> and find a boating class that I am sure you will find engaging.

Our upcoming Christmas dinner party is at the Morgan House, where we will be enjoying friendship and hearing all about The Great Loop experiences from our members, Eric and Marla Hoeft.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events. Anchors away!

Raffle Winner

The 50/50 Raffle winner at the November Dinner meeting was Russ Boda. Russ and his wife, Mary, recently joined America's Boating Club of Central Ohio. *Congratulations!*



Ready or not, the Holiday season is here. That includes cleaning, cooking, shopping, and wrapping. So, before you dive into all of that, come to a festive evening at The Morgan House in Dublin. Arrive early to shop in the always magical rooms of holiday goodies. Then enjoy dinner and an evening with friends, both local and from our "sister" squadrons up north. After dinner, our members, Eric and Marla Hoeft, will present their exciting excursion on the rivers and lakes of the Great Loop.



If you have enjoyed this past year of activities, social events, boat trips, fairs, parades, boat safety inspections and an impressive first-class boating education, then please look around your community, marina, and social groups and encourage other people to take advantage of this great organization, America's Boating Club. Yes, we have a very capable Membership Chairman, but we must remember that increasing and supporting membership and safety on the water is really everyone's job.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to everyone! We look forward to seeing you on December 12th at The Morgan House

District 29 Fall Conference Update

by Michael Hughes and Tracy Garrett

The Toledo Power Squadron hosted the District 29 Fall Conference at the Findlay Inn, October 24-26. The theme was Life as a Pirate with a Friday night costume party. Chris Hoover won the award with the cardboard boat he wore with suspenders. Jason and Sheryl looked great in their pirate costumes! Saturday morning, several members attended the Marine Batteries and DC Power seminar. They were discussing over lunch how they need to make adjustments to some of their winter prep items because of the new battery systems. Another seminar, Updated Changes to Education and Teaching was led by our own Bob Rayburn. We discussed how to enhance the PowerPoint presentations with tools, aids, and hands-on activities to increase content understanding.

Columbus squadron shared the updates to our clubhouse, including the Neatboard and how we

can introduce our classes and seminars to people around the U.S. Sandusky informed the group that they sold their clubhouse to the Sandusky Yacht Club and were given space in the SYC to hold meetings, teach classes, and educate the SYC membership. All the burgees, pictures, etc, were hung in their new west wing. Toledo discussed how the National organization is encouraging each squadron to recruit new members. Toledo put a plan on paper, submitted it to the National organization, and won the National Membership Retention Award in September.

Five couples signed up for the Scavenger Hunt on Saturday afternoon. We walked around Findlay, OH, deciphering the clues that led us to an ice cream shop and then a coffee shop to pick up the clues. What a fun time seeing the local sites on a nice fall day. The dinner speaker was Christopher Gillcrest, who shared his expertise on Piracy on the Great Lakes.

The Spring 2026 Conference will be presented by Port Clinton at the Holiday Inn Express Sandusky on March 27-29. The theme is '1776-2026 - 250 Years of Safe Navigation.' If you have not attended a district conference, plan to attend. You will meet other boaters and learn new adventures over the course of the weekend.

Columbus will host the Fall 2026 Conference in Ada, Ohio. If you would like to be on the committee, please reach out to Sue Goelz or Jason Mack to let them know. Many hands make light work!



December Birthdays

Debbie Stohl
Christopher Altier
Pamela Carr
Joseph Clay
Nathaniel Murphy
Mari Seaver



Happy Holidays!

Your education department is taking a break from teaching during the holidays. We had several excellent seminars in November. If you missed them, they will likely return in the spring. Please plan to take a course during the winter season.

As mentioned in last month's article, there is an Engine Maintenance Course in January as well as Marine Electronics available to help you prepare your boat for the coming boating season. What checks would you like to make or changes in your electronics? This is the time to plan for those changes. Who wants to waste boating season working on your boat? Plan for a greater boating season.

February provides opportunities to build your personal skills. The Marine Navigation course allows you to plan great trips on the water. The



Sailing class helps you build those skills to enjoy the water without the sound of an engine. While it may take more skill to sail, just imagine the places you can go without the cost of fuel shortening your trip and time on the water.

Now is the time to make plans and add some knowledge to your dreams for the next boating season. Look at the options on the website that are available through our education program. Sign up on the website. Check out the website for more information.

<https://www.columbussailandpower.org>

Schedule of Classes 2025-2026

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Marine Electrical Systems | Wednesdays | January 21-March 18, 2026 |
| Marine Navigation | Monday evenings | February 2-March 30, 2026 |
| Engine Maintenance | Monday evenings | February 2-March 9, 2026 |
| Sailing | Wednesday evenings | February 4-May 6, 2026 |
| Boat Handling | Wednesday evenings | March 4-June 8, 2026 |
| Cruising Under Sail and Power | Tuesday evenings | March 10-April 28, 2026 |
| Trailer and Trailer Tune Up | Tuesday | May 12, 2026 |
| Weather for Boaters | Wednesday | May 20, 2026 |

Nautical Deck Query

from Paul King

1. BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND INLAND:
Which vessel is to keep out of the way of others?
 - A. A vessel engaged in trawling
 - B. A vessel constrained by draft
 - C. A vessel engaged in underwater operations

— answer on page 7



SICK BAY

Debbie Crothers (Shoulder Surgery)
Tom Schmearsal (Shoulder Surgery)
Brian Crabbe (Knee Surgery)

ABC/Central Ohio MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Eric & Marla Hoeft

Eric and Marla Hoeft became members of Columbus Sail and Power Squadron, also known as America's Boating Club of Central Ohio, in April of this year. Together, they bring over 30 years of boating experience to the club. They were already familiar with the organization, having first connected with us through a long-standing business relationship and friendship with John Seaver. It was during this association that Eric hosted an engine maintenance class for fellow boating enthusiasts at his home office and garage in Powell. Eric's passion for boating has spanned much of his life, and fortunately for him, Marla shares that passion!

The Hoeft's boating adventure began in 1985 with the purchase of an old fixer-upper fishing boat. In 1994, they were introduced to Lake Erie boating and purchased a boat to keep in the water on Catawba Island. With the birth of their son, they switched gears and bought a 250 Sea Ray Sundancer on a trailer to use on Lake Erie and travel with their family all over the eastern United States. Destinations included: Florida, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, etc.

In 2020, they upgraded to a Great Loop-worthy boat—a 1997 39' Mainship 350 Trawler. Purchased in Virginia Beach, the Hoefts embarked on an epic journey in 2021, cruising 1,350 miles of the Great Loop. The trip lasted four weeks and involved five separate crews, including his wife and 10 volunteer friends and family. They started on the Chesapeake Bay, cruised up the Atlantic to New York, and the Hudson. They entered the Erie Canal in Waterford, New York, and traveled to Lake Erie and eventually Sandusky. For the next three years, the Hoefts spent time traveling on the Great Lakes and up to the Georgian Bay in Ontario.

In 2024, Eric decided to retire from the

company he had founded 27 years earlier. The retirement date was set as May of 2025, and Marla agreed that retirement would involve traveling and living on board a boat. The plan was to spend 6 months out of each year on board and 6 months at their "Dirt home." Top destinations on their list were the Bahamas and Maine. To do that, they of course decided... they needed a bigger boat.

In October of 2024, the Hoefts visited the Annapolis Boat Show to look at Trawlers. They were able to get on board 15 different types/makes of Trawlers to refine their search requirements. With the help of a broker, they located a 2000 Ocean Alexander 510 Classico in a marina in Iuka, Mississippi. This boat was three times the size (66,000 lbs) of the Mainship and offered all the space and amenities they felt they needed. It was manufactured in Taiwan, and the original sticker price was \$780,000. They closed on the *Ocean Alexander* (renamed *Stella Maris*) in December of 2024 and planned their next adventure, getting her to Lake Erie via the river system to Chicago.

For the trip home to Sandusky, Marla managed much of the logistics and provisioning for the trip, coordinating five crews who would each stay aboard for around eight days. Over seven weeks, Eric navigated through nine states and two countries (Canada), consuming 1,400 gallons of diesel fuel along the way. Their route took them from the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, through the



1997 Mainship 350 Trawler



2000 Ocean Alexander, *Stella Maris*

Tennessee, Cumberland, Ohio, Mississippi, Illinois, and Chicago rivers. Once in Chicago, Marla came on board to crew the boat for four weeks of the journey through Lake Michigan, Mackinaw,



the North Channel to Little Current, Ontario in the Georgian Bay. The 5th and final crew relieved Marla to take the boat across the Georgian Bay, down Lake Huron, through Detroit, and across Lake Erie to Sandusky, Ohio.

Looking ahead, for 2026, the Hoeffts plan to travel for over six months through Montreal and to New York, arriving by October. From there, Eric will travel down the East Coast to New Bern, N.C., to wait for the Hurricane season to end by December 1st, 2026. In January 2027, they will travel to Miami and then cross over into the Bahamas. They also hope to spend time in 2027 exploring Maine.

Eric and Marla's journey has spanned decades, from navigating with paper charts and without the aid of GPS or cell phones to their current high-tech cruising lifestyle. As they reflect on their experiences, Marla emphasizes the importance of always being willing to learn and prepare for the challenges of boating. Eric agrees and is eager to share his knowledge with fellow boaters through teaching, particularly about engine maintenance, weather patterns, and navigation.

Both Eric and Marla have accumulated incredible experiences both on and off the water, and they have graciously volunteered to share their story of the Great Loop at the America's Boating Club Christmas Party at Morgan House on December 12th. Do not miss the chance to meet and learn from these seasoned boaters with such an expansive and fascinating boating history!

For anyone interested in traveling the Great Loop, Eric and Marla's 1997 Mainship 350 is currently for sale. It is listed through a brokerage called Knot10 and is located in inside heated storage in Sandusky, Ohio. She is a well-maintained and heavily upgraded trawler with proven travel abilities.

Important Membership Info

USPS National changed its computer system this year to IMIS. Some information did not transfer over from the old system. To check your record for errors, complete the following steps:

1. Go to www.USPS.org and log in to the Membership Portal with your credentials. Usernames 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. You can use the same password that you use on USPS.org, but your password must be seven 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 you 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, 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.

— from page 5

Correct answer for Nautical Deck Query:

1. A. "A vessel engaged in fishing underway shall, so far as possible, keep out of the way of: (i) a vessel not under command; (ii) a vessel restricted in the ability to maneuver." (d)(i) Any vessel other than a vessel not under command or a vessel restricted in the ability to maneuver shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid impeding the safe passage of a vessel constrained by draft, exhibiting signals in Rule 28. Nautical Rule 28 is part of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea (COLREGs) and deals with vessels that are constrained by their draught.



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

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*

Join the *Galley Gossip* Sponsors Club

Would you like to have your boat, business or pets listed in the *Galley Gossip*? The *Galley Gossip* newsletter is published monthly from September to June. Your \$20 contribution will receive a full ten months of sponsorship listing beginning in the March 2025 issue.

Your name: _____

Please PRINT your listings as they should appear. Indicate UPPER & lower Case (A a)
Limited to 30 characters AND spaces per line:

Send your \$20 per listing fee made payable to **Columbus Sail & Power Squadron** to:
8492 Cotter Street, Lewis Center, OH 43035.

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

