

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of Central Ohio

Galley Gossip



NOVEMBER 2026

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DISTRICT 29



Official Publication of America's Boating Club of Central Ohio

Chapala Mexican Grill

240 N LIBERTY STREET ~ POWELL, OH

November 5th ~ 6-9 pm

This month we will order from the menu and pay for our own tab. Enjoy Chapala's large selection of cocktails and tasty Mexican dishes. After dinner, David Keller will offer a recap of the Lake Charlevoix trip and perhaps hint at trips we might expect in the Summer 2027 boating season. Mari Seaver will lead us in a lively game of BINGO. Bring \$cash\$ for the 50-50 raffle. You won't want to miss this fun dinner event.

Reservations are REQUIRED either online at www.columbussailandpower.com, directly to Sue Goelz by voicemail at (614) 598-6709, or by email at sue_goelz@yahoo.com NOT LATER THAN OCT 30TH.

2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF CENTRAL OHIO

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

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Member-at-Large Debbie Stohl, S (Merit Marks)

Monthly Newsletter for Sail, Power, and Paddle Boaters

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

Chartered 1940

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr Jason Mack, P



Ahoy! Has everyone had an opportunity to, unfortunately, winterize their boats to bring the 2026 boating season to a close? And what a season of fun it was! So many boating adventures we scheduled and completed this year; I cannot wait for the 2027 season to start! I am just hoping that the weather will be more cooperative next year than it was this year.



This was the first year for the Macks' to have a boat slip at Alum Creek. We enjoyed having the boat there for our convenience anytime we wanted to go boating. We had to really learn on how to dock the boat together as a team and work on our communication to make sure we were safe. By the end of the season, we felt we had the boat docking down to a science. There were a couple of painful points that we learned and that is there is algae growth and zebra mussels that cling to the boat bottom. I think for the next season, we will work on using specialty wax that repels the growth and is safe for the water and our boat, along with

taking the Hern's advice and having the boat acid washed at the end of the season.

There is some time in between now and then though. I highly encourage you to take a class to help you become better captains on the water. There are so many great courses available that will be sure to challenge you and will also make you more confident in your abilities. I am looking forward to the Boat Engine Maintenance, Emergencies on Board, and Advanced Marine Navigation courses, just to name a few. Many have commented that we need to have more seminars, like the Garmin seminar, which we recently held. If there is a specialty class that you are looking for, please let us know and I would be happy to investigate further.

We are currently looking into additional marketing opportunities to help get our message out. We will be meeting with a Google ads manager that looks to be very promising for giving us a sizable marketing presence and help draw in more people to the club. More to come on that soon.

Looking forward to the next time we can all get together! Anchors Away!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Sue Goelz, S



As the temperatures drop across central Ohio, it is always a bit sad to put the boats away for the next five months. Haul-out marks the official closure of our on-water schedule, but we have plenty to be thankful for as we reflect on the past several months.

I am thankful for the sun filled days on the water and safe cruises. It's been a lot of fun!

I am thankful for our good friends: Tom Schmer-sal. Joe Huffman, Phil Osborne and the others on their boats for pulling us out of the Sandusky River mud on the Tackle Box cruise. (Hey Phil, we must



discuss who was driving the boat that day!)

I am thankful for the twelve years we have spent with this squadron. We are safer, educated boaters. We truly came for the education, but we stay for the friends!

Wishing you and your families a restful holiday season.

Have a great Thanksgiving, and here's to a productive, educational winter ahead.



CALENDAR of COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 5 Thursday Chapala Mexican Grill, 240 N Liberty Street Powell, OH 43065, 5-9 pm
Reservations are a must via the website at www.columbussailandpower.org
Members and Guests will order from the menu and be responsible for individual checks
- 14 Saturday Zoom Training at the Clubhouse 9 am-12 pm
- 17 Tuesday Executive Committee Meeting, in person at ABC Clubhouse or via Zoom
See the website at www.columbussailandpower.org for more information.
- 26 Thursday THANKSGIVING DAY
- 27 Friday Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith Concert-Schottenstein Center
For more information, see the website at www.columbussailandpower.org
or contact David Keller at 614 900-8790 or by email at david@romerecording.com

DECEMBER

- 12 Saturday Annual Christmas Party, The Morgan House 5300 Glick Road, Dublin
Eric and Marla Hoeft will share highlights of their 2026 adventures aboard the *Stella Maris*
- 15 Tuesday Executive Committee Meeting, in person at ABC Clubhouse or via Zoom
See the website at www.columbussailandpower.org for more information
- 25 Friday CHRISTMAS DAY

SAVE THE DATES:

JANUARY 2027

- 1 Friday NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 4 Monday Marine Navigation-Charting Course This is a 10 Week course on Monday evenings from 7- 9 pm
Register at columbussailandpower.org. Click on Education, Elective Classes, Marine Navigation for more information and to register
- 8-17 Friday-Sunday Ohio RV and Boat Show at the Ohio Expo Center Columbus
- 14-17 Thurs-Sunday Progressive Cleveland Boat Show at the IX Center Cleveland
- 26 Tuesday Executive Committee Meeting, in person at ABC Clubhouse or via Zoom
- 30 Saturday Change of Watch, The Boat House at Confluence Park 679 W. Spring St, Columbus

FEBRUARY 2027

- 7-14 Sun-Sunday National Meeting of United States Power Squadron, Embassy Suites/Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL
- 14-21 Sun-Sunday United States Power Squadron Member Cruise on the *Sun Princess* from Fort Lauderdale to Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Amber Cove, Dominican Republic
- 23 Tue Executive Committee Meeting at ABC Clubhouse or via Zoom



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Sheryl Mack, P



We just had another excellent dinner at Schmidt's Sausage Haus in German Village. It was great to see you all there. We always enjoy the yearly October meeting at this venue as it seems to be the perfect place to kick off Fall and the end of boating season. We were also treated to a wonderful presentation by David and Melanie



Stacy. We learned about their early experiences with boating, how they found their current boat and how that has led them to travel to locations all over the country from Florida to Wisconsin and next year

to Newfoundland! We can't wait to hear about this adventure!

Our next dinner meeting will be at Chapala's Mexican Grill, in Powell, on November 5th at 6pm. I have heard great things about their food from fellow boating members. Each person will be able to order their choice of meals from the menu and be responsible for their own bill. You will also be entertained with Bingo and a presentation by David Keller about his summer trip to Lake Charlevoix in Michigan. It should be another great evening!

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the next dinner, but you don't want to miss it, so please be sure to reserve your spot today by RSVPing online at <https://www.columbussailandpower.org/social-dinner-meetings>, by texting Sue Goelz at 614-598-6709 or by email to sue_goelz@yahoo.com

We continue to plan additional great dinner meetings for the remainder of this year and hope you can join us. Please check out the *Galley Gossip* calendar for all the upcoming dinner locations!

If you have any restaurant or activity suggestions you would like to see planned, please let me know. Also, if you are interested in speaking at one of the events or know of someone who would like to speak to the group, please reach out.



Russ Boda

Eldon Hall

Gaige Mohr

Charlotte Mohr

Karen Mesenburg

Marla Hoeft

David Keller

Social Media Director Named



Kelsey Pfeifer has accepted the position, Social Media Director for America's Boating Club of Central Ohio. Kelsey is currently the youngest member of the squadron. She is experienced in the use of Social Media and looks forward to attracting other boaters and friends of boaters to visit our website with the goal of adding new members.

New Benefit for America's Boating Club Members: Affinity Boat Insurance Program

America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons is pleased to announce a new affinity boat insurance for members. This is in partnership with Core Insurance Group. Please take advantage of this new enhanced member benefit program for competitive and comprehensive boat insurance coverage.

Email boating@coreinsured.com for a quick and competitive quote. You should receive a quote within 48 hours. Have your driver's license and birth date available to obtain your quote.

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

R/C Bob Rayburn, SN-IN



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Topic: Zoom Training Activity

Date and Time: Nov. 14, 2026 – 9 AM-12PM

Location: Clubhouse America's Boating Club of Central Ohio, 8492 Cotter Street, Lewis Center, OH 43035 (www.columbussailandpower.org)

Two knowledgeable instructors will provide learning activities to build members understanding to become more comfortable using Zoom. There will be time for each person to move through the program to build comfort level and discussion with question-and-answer time. During the training we will also consider some teaching strategies to use when teaching virtually. While some members may not wish to present information, We need members to operate the program to support virtual teaching for members meeting together. The plan is to use clubhouse resources, which include several repurposed computers for hands-on training, as needed. The training will allow members to practice and become familiar with Zoom operations and tools to engage people in the virtual online environment.

We do want members to bring their computers to work in Zoom. The Zoom workplace app is used to



connect you to the program. This training may help you decide if software updates will make it easier to interact online. We want members to meet in person for discussion and solving individual connecting issues.

You may wish to connect from your own location. If you are familiar with Zoom, it should not be a problem. The

link below would normally be received electronically. Normally clicking on the link would take you to the online location. It may be easier to contact me for an invitation to attend the meeting. re.rayburn@sbcgloabal.net

50/50 Winner

Congratulations to the
October 50-50 Raffle Winner Mari Seaver



Nautical Notes

- A. What "K" word measurement of boat speed is a measure of one nautical mile per hour?
- B. Which term that describes the turbulent water behind a boat can also be part of an expression that means you're in the tumultuous fallout of something?
- C. What word is used to describe a floating container anchored to the sea bottom so that it remains in position? It is often used to mark channels that help keep boats safe.
- D. What term that might remind you of soccer shoes is also what you call the boat fitting that is used to securely keep a vessel docked?
- E. What "D" word refers to the minimum depth of water a boat needs to float?
- F. What boating company, based out of Mettawa, Illinois, makes the Mercury boat engines? The name is also related to a bowling company.

See page 7 for the answers!



ABC/Central Ohio MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Joe and Linda Huffman

For Joe Huffman, a lifelong love of boating began along the banks of the Ohio River in Paden City, West Virginia. As a young boy, he would take his lunch to a nearby hill overlooking the river and watch the tugs and barges make their way along the waterway. Years later, as recreational boating on the river became more popular, his fascination with boats continued to grow. Little did he know that this early interest would become a lifelong passion shared with his family and, eventually, a wonderful community of boating friends.

Joe's journey took him from his small hometown to West Virginia University and then to Columbus, Ohio, where he built a career as a radiology manager. It was there, in his apartment complex, that he met his future wife, Linda. The two married in 1968, beginning a partnership that would lead to decades of boating adventures.

Linda had moved to Columbus from Sycamore, Ohio, to attend Bliss College, where she pursued secretarial studies. After completing her education, she put her skills to work with a local engineering firm. Although Linda's early boating experience was limited, she had once joined a friend at Lake Erie to try her hand at water skiing. Her true love of boating, however, developed after marrying Joe and accepting an invitation from friends to visit their campsite at Lake Cumberland. That trip helped spark an enthusiasm that would become a treasured part of their life together.

In 1973, the Huffman's purchased their first boat, a 1967 StarCraft Holiday. Their two sons, Jason and Justin, were introduced to boating at an early age and quickly became enthusiastic participants. Both boys were water skiing at age five and slalom skiing by age six at Griggs and O'Shaughnessy reservoirs. So, by then, the family was involved in boating, "hook, line, and sinker," as Joe fondly recalls.

When Joe retired in 2012, he looked forward to spending even more time boating and water skiing. Around that time, he met Glen Kubinski, a member

of the Columbus Sail and Power Squadron, who invited him to join the club. Joe and Linda enrolled in the ABC boating course and participated in other educational opportunities. Joe soon became involved in helping manage the club's financial assets and organizing rendezvous for members who enjoy trailering their boats to explore different lakes and waterways.

Over the years, Joe has helped lead many memorable boating trips, with Lake Cumberland holding a special place among his favorites. Their adventures have also taken them along the Ohio River, through the Trent-Severn Waterway, to Torch Lake, and to destinations throughout New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Kentucky, as well as four of the Great Lakes.

Linda is always ready for the next adventure, too! While the boating itself is a big part of the fun, she especially enjoys trips that include stops in charming small towns along the waterways. Quaint shops, beautiful homes, and colorful flowers make these journeys particularly appealing. For the Huffman's, boating is about more than being on the water, it's also about discovering new

places and enjoying the experiences along the way.

The original 1967 StarCraft Holiday, purchased in 1973, is still part of the Huffman family, although it is now in storage. In 2024, Joe and Linda added a new 21-foot Sea Ray to their boating family. Named Country Roads, the boat has become a familiar sight to club members, with its photo appearing each month as a sponsor of Galley Gossip.

And when Ohio's boating season comes to an end, the Huffman's don't simply put away their boating gear and call it a year. Instead, they head to Florida, where they spend a couple of days each week cruising the Intracoastal Waterway from Tampa Bay toward Sanibel. Their outings sometimes bring delightful encounters with dolphins and manatees. When they're not on the water, they enjoy spending time with Florida friends playing cards, walking,

— continued next page



Joe and Linda Huffman at Conley Bottom Marina, Lake Cumberland

Member Spotlight, continued from page 6

riding bikes, or simply catching up over coffee at the local Beanery.

Joe and Linda's story is a wonderful example of how a shared love of boating can grow into a lifetime of adventure, friendship, and cherished memories. Their enthusiasm for exploring new waterways and welcoming others along the way makes them a valued part of our boating community.

If you haven't yet experienced a boating rendezvous with Joe, Linda, and fellow club members, put it on your list for 2027! You'll discover new places, learn plenty along the way, and—most importantly—have a whole lot of fun.

A Fun Tennessee Weekend

ABC Life Member David Fannon, and wife Melissa, trailered their *Aquatron* to the annual Glen-L Boat Builders Gathering in Dayton, TN, the weekend of Sept 17-19. The event at Blue Water Resort & Marina on the Tennessee River is nice reunion of folks who have built boats of all sizes and shapes from plans from the Glen-L Marine, now owned by DuckWorks.

After several days of boating and comraderie, Melissa and Dave continued their adventure with an overnight stay at the beautiful new home of Michael Hughes and Tracey Garrett. A grand up-hill and down-dale tour of the Norris Lake community was given on the moose golfcart.

A longer article on the Fannon's adventures will be forthcoming in a winter issue of the GG.

Nautical Notes Answers

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| A. Knot | D. Cleat |
| B. Wake | E. Draft |
| C. Buoy | F. Brunswick |

Bonus Points:

Can you name the knot illustrated in the Nautical Notes on page 5?



COASTIE Volunteers Needed

Coastie will be making an appearance at the Ohio Expo Center Columbus for the Ohio RV and Boat Show on January 9, 10, 16, and 17. Coastie parents should volunteer to handle Coastie between the hours of 12 pm and 4 pm on those Saturdays and Sundays. Coastie's operation requires two people for each shift. If you are interested in running Coastie at the RV and Boat Show, please co-ordinate schedules with either Commander Jason Mack or Executive Officer Sue Goelz. The show runs from 10-8 on Saturday and 11-5 on Sunday. Your admission and parking for the show are free when you sign up to operate Coastie.



SICK BAY

Joe Huffman - Hip Replacement Surgery and Rehab
Debbie Crothers - Foot surgery
Lawrence Keough - Father of Larry Keough



MERIT MARKS



Greetings, Fellow Boaters!

We are introducing a new online Merit Mark Activity Reporting Form to help recognize the time, dedication, and contributions of our members.

Throughout the year, please use this form to report your volunteer activities, leadership roles, committee participation, educational contributions, and other service to America's Boating Club / United States Power Squadrons®.

Please submit a separate report for EACH significant activity and describe it in detail.

Merit Marks recognize substantial contributions to our organization, not simply the number of hours volunteered. Your reports will help our Squadron Commander prepare merit mark recommendations.

Submit your activities here: <https://forms.gle/eanvy5X7qJ5viFTE8>, on or before October 30, 2026.

Thank you for everything you do to support our boating community!

Fair winds and following seas!

Debbie Stohl, Merit Marks Chair
614 204-9294

After submission and approval, America's Boating Club national organization awards the Merit Marks via email. Certificates can then be printed as needed from the email. Merit Marks in the form of a Gold Bar can also be purchased for uniforms from the national Yacht Club suppliers.

ACTIVITIES THAT QUALIFY FOR MERIT MARKS

- Teaching a class
 - Proctoring or grading papers at classes or seminars
 - Additional help assisting with classes
 - Working boat shows, whether working a booth or assisting in set/uptake-down, and/or operating Coastie.
 - Conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) or assisting with the setup and signage at VSC and safe boating activities
 - Assistance with Squadron, District, or National events
 - Attending meetings as a Member of the Executive Committee or Bridge
 - Serving on a Committee and helping with its functions and responsibilities
 - Organizing and preparing for rendezvous, either by boat or 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

Thank you again to all the squadron members who volunteered their time and effort in 2026. This was a very successful year for the Central Ohio Squadron.



From *The Ensign* Fall 2026 Issue

See the article below from the Fall 2026 issue of *The Ensign*. Worth the read as we continue to look for ways to grow and enhance our local squadron. Check out current and past issues at <https://theensign.org/back-issues/>



SOUNDINGS

Being a member is an investment

BY KEITH NUNNERY

► Las Vegas Sail & Power Squadron/13 recently voted to amend its bylaws. A few of my favorite things about the new bylaws are that they make it clear that members pilot the organization; they spell out the balance between leadership and operations; and they emphasize that decision-making is a shared responsibility.

Those points are important. A squadron doesn't cruise forward because a few people sit around and figure everything out. It moves because members show up, speak up, bring ideas and challenge things when needed. That's usually where the good stuff starts. The new bylaws give us better guidance for working as a team. The Executive Committee handles the normal business of the squadron while members still have an important voice in the direction of the organization.

Here's the thing about membership. It's easy to pay the dues, get the emails, have a member ID. But if you don't show up, participate, share an idea, ask questions or have your say, you're losing a big part of the investment. I like to think of our meetings as ideas during wine tasting. Bring something to the table. Pour it out. Let's take a look at it. Maybe it's a great idea. Maybe it needs a little work. Maybe we decide it isn't quite ready. That's how great things happen. The bylaws give active members a voice in squadron business, and the rest should flip for a round of drinks. So don't sit on the dock wondering what's going on. Join in; pull up a chair at the table. Your voice is the return on investment.

We're not just here to hold meetings, shuffle paperwork and keep a name on a roster. We're here because we like boating. Every member brings something different to the squadron: experience, knowledge, new ideas, stories, skills, friendships, and sometimes just a willingness to pitch in and help or stir up a little trouble just for fun. That's worth something. That's the kind of spirit that keeps a group like ours alive. ■



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Thank you, supporters of the award-winning **Galley Gossip**



Osborne — *Escaped*



Schmersal — *High Expectations*



Hern — *Last Hurrah*



Fannon — *Aquatron*



Hughes/Garrett/Mohr — *At Last*



Huffman — *Country Roads*



Crothers — *New Moon*



Rhodes — *Feeling Nautier*



Keller — *Firefly*



Mack — *Choose Wisely*



Hughes — *Singularity*



Goelz — *Forever ♥ Young*



Rayburn — *Tool-n-Around*

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