



SEMAPHORE

Volume 59, Issue 3 Month 2026



Photo courtesy of Richard Eberhart

Commodore's Corner

Doug Butcher



Wow — what a difference a month makes! If you've visited the Club website recently, you probably saw photos of a frozen harbor and even people walking on the lake. Fast forward just a few weeks, and I was working on my boat wearing a t-shirt.

Once we get past this (hopefully) final stretch of freezing weather, we'll start thinking seriously about turning the kitchen water back on — and maybe even reopening Mr. Thirsty. Which can only mean one thing: sailing season is right around the corner.

Your Board has been working hard to put together an exceptional program for the year ahead. “Get It Done Doug” has been busy grading gravel, continuing cleanup efforts around the Club, and retrieving sand for the beach — so be sure to thank him when you see him. We have some new and unique racing and social events plans in the works for this year and look forward to sharing more details at the upcoming Spring Members’ Meeting.

I encourage everyone to attend if you can. The Spring Meeting marks the unofficial start of the sailing season, and we will also present the budget for membership approval. Whether you’re a new member just getting acquainted or a seasoned old salt, we hope to see you there.

Renewals are coming in well ahead of last year’s pace, which is great news. If you do not plan to renew, please contact John Coode to let him know. That will make his life easier, prevent unnecessary follow-ups, and help Bob finalize slip assignments. As of now, the harbor remains 100 percent full, with a couple of new members still on the waitlist.

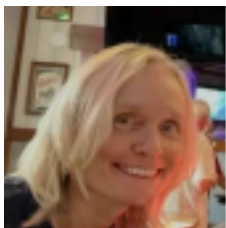
If you haven’t made it a habit to visit the Club website, please take a few minutes to check it out (just search “Perry Yacht Club”). We’re working hard to keep the calendar updated in real time, and Kenny has been doing a terrific job adding photos to keep the site fresh and engaging.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming social events over the next month. Please see "Social News" below for details. Until then, stay warm and stay safe — sailing season is almost here.

Social News

Kathleen

Coode Social Chair



Greetings Sailors!

**Vice
Commodore**
Membership
John Coode

Thank you to all who attended our Winter Social held at Johnny's on February 7. If you missed the event at Johnny's, we have another social scheduled for O'Neill's on March 14 at O'Neill's. O'Neill's is located at 9417 Mission Road in Leawood. The event will take place from 4:00-7:00.

Also, please mark your calendars for our Annual Spring Membership Meeting on March 28, 2026. The meeting will be held at the Tomahawk Ridge Community Center at 11902 Lowell in Overland Park. The meeting time is 2:00-5:00. Finally, please note that Spring Work Day will be April 11, 2026. I will send out an invitation for Spring Work Day since we will serve breakfast and lunch at this event. It is not too late to mark your calendar for Saturday, May 23. This is the date of our first party and Spring Round Perry race.

We look forward to a great season of sailing!



Hi everyone,
As I write this, we are about 60 percent complete with 2026 renewals, and we have already added 3 new members this year. The harbor currently sits at full capacity!

If you're planning to mail a check, please make it a priority to **complete your renewal before March 15**, or bring your check to the Spring Meeting. The Spring Meeting is the last day to pay dues without late fees, and memberships **will lapse on April 15**.

If you need your renewal information re-sent to you, please email me at members@perryyachtclub.com. A reminder will be sent early in March.

Please Welcome New Members Dave and Stacy Watson - Please welcome them when you see them!



Looking forward to a great sailing season!

MEMBERSHIP/

RENEWALS:

Before you renew, it is a good idea to do these items first:

1. Review the current membership agreement at: [Perry Yacht Club Membership Agreement](#).
2. Locate your insurance information: Verify you carry a minimum of \$100,000 liability coverage.
3. Check that your policy is current for the upcoming season.
4. Confirm PYC is listed as an 'additional named insured'.
5. Please upload your insurance information electronically (.jpg, .png, or .pdf) while renewing. That saves our Assistant Treasurer & fellow member tons of time!

6. Decide how you would like to make a payment.

To renew, click this link:

- [Renew Here](#)
- Member ID:
- Password: PYC
2026

If you have questions, comments, or encounter any issues with the renewal process, contact me at members @perryachtclub.com

Communications

Ruth Baum Bigus



Welcome to our new feature-
Good News!

This is a place to share the good things happening in lives of our members.

Three cheers to our own **Brandon Hamilton!** A few months ago it was announced that Brandon had received the Rick Nafe Award of Excellence in Stadium Management. He recently accepted the award at the annual Stadium Managers Association Conference. Brandon is the Vice President of Stadium Operations and Facilities for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Do you have good news to share? Please email Ruth Bigus. Feel free to share photos.

February Fun at Johnny's



PYC Shop

The PYC Merchandise Committee has been busy this winter selecting new merch for our store! We are excited to be adding some terrific new items to our inventory. As we are also celebrating 55 years with our club this season, we are offering a new embroidered logo with 55 years on our merchandise.

Cooler Tote Bag- an extra-large cooler bag to transport food, beverages, or anything wet to and from your boat. Look like a PYC professional sailor while carrying this bag on the docks!

Cost: \$25

Beanie - Sport the PYC logo and keep your head warm and cozy in this high-quality cuffed beanie. Get one or two and



Windbreaker/Anorak: It's about time we got some waterproof clothing in the store. You asked and we found it. This amazing pullover windbreaker is going to

avoid "hat head" in the morning.

Available in navy and grey

Cost: \$15

PYC Fleece Vest: You will never want to take this comfy and stylish vest off.

Guaranteed to make you look put together and ready to take on any sailing challenge. Good for spring sailing weather - light but warm. Available in men's and women's sizes in blue and grey.

Cost: \$35

Hoodie: You asked and we provided.

Soft, cozy well-made hoodies! It's always a good time to buy sweatshirts sporting the PYC logo! We have options for both men and women. Available in navy, red, heather and white.

Cost:\$35



Harbormaster
Brandon Hamilton

be a must for the smart PYC sailor. It has zippered side and middle pockets and folds up to a small square...Perfect for transporting and keeping on hand for that Kansas weather. It will keep you warm and dry while giving you that "newport" sailing look. Colors are navy red and grey.

Cost: \$40

Make sure you come "buy" the Merch Table at the spring meeting to check out our new and existing merchandise to get your orders in early for spring. You will look sailorific in our new merchandise this season. Reminder - we take checks, cash or Paypal.

Jill and Kelly



Mark your calendars!

Sept. 26 will be an afternoon dedicated to catamaran sailing, followed by a beach bonfire and Hobie Beach party at sunset.

The afternoon will include:

- Open beach launches
- Informal sailing sessions
- Demo sails for members curious to experience a catamaran
- Time to rig, ask questions, and connect

That evening, we'll gather around a bonfire on the sand to close out the day — stories, music, and sunset over the water.

This isn't about trophies or formal racing.

It's about visibility.

It's about participation.

It's about rebuilding a fleet presence.

If you currently own a catamaran — Hobie, Nacra, Prindle, F18, or otherwise — I will be reaching out personally to invite you to put your boat on the beach that day. Your participation matters. A fleet only becomes visible when boats show up together. If you've been thinking about buying one, this will be the perfect opportunity to talk to owners, see different setups, and take a demo sail.

If you sailed cats years ago, consider stepping back onto the wire.

Perry Yacht Club has a strong monohull tradition. That foundation remains solid. But there is room — and momentum — for a visible, active catamaran fleet once again.

Sept. 26 is a starting point.

Let's put twin hulls back where they belong.

See you on the sand!

Meet Dave & Stacy Watson

My wife and I are excited to become members of the Perry Yacht Club and to get the sailing season underway. We both grew up in Kansas and currently live in Overland Park. We have four grown children and two grandchildren who love going sailing with Daisy and Pops.

For the past six years, we've been sailing our Catalina 27, Stardust, at



Lake Jacomo and have been members of their yacht club for four of those years. We're thrilled for the opportunity to get involved in the Perry Yacht Club community and to enjoy sailing on beautiful Perry Lake.

2026 Board Members

Please feel free to reach out to us with your ideas and concerns.

Commodore: [Doug Butcher](#);

Vice Commodore: [John Coode](#); members@perryyachtclub.com

Rear Commodore: [Chris Ross](#);

Secretary: [Neal Barkley](#);

Treasurer: [Mark Faltermeier](#);

Past Commodore: Lawrence Bigus;
Dock Master: Robert Harte;
Harbour Master: Brandon Hamilton;
Buildings and Grounds: Doug Simons;
Sailing Education: Barry White;
Technology Officer: Dave Blair; _
Communications: Ruth Bigus;
Social: Kathleen Coode;
Assistant Treasurer: Cathi Leshner;
Ex Officio: Gary Templeton;

The Semaphore is available in electronic format only. Check your email the first week of each month.

Information for articles is due by 9 p.m. the third Sunday of the preceding month.

To Contact the Club, the email is: members@perryyachtclub.com

This email was sent by pycadmin@perryyachtclub.com to dcbutcherpersonal@gmail.com

Not interested? [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preference](#) | [Update profile](#)

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