



SEMAPHORE

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Commodore's Corner

Doug Butcher



If you're anything like me, the recent mild weather made me wish I was out sailing. While the 2025 sailing season may be behind us, winter is the perfect time to do some off-season boat maintenance projects and begin planning for next season, so we're ready to hit the water early next spring.

At our December meeting, the Board established goals for the 2026 season that reflect our commitment to a strong, safe, and engaging club:

- **Safety and Maintenance:** Operate the club grounds and harbor with no accidents, no near-misses, and no significant deferred maintenance.
- **Financial Stability:** Position the club to retire the breakwater loan within five years, while returning \$10,000 to reserves at year end. We will remain focused on reporting financials in a transparent and easy-to-comprehend format.
- **Membership:** Improve engagement and retention, with a renewed focus on new-member onboarding and increased opportunities for volunteer

involvement. End the 2026 season at or above 100% harbor occupancy.

- Programs: Deliver high-quality sailing programs and social events that appeal to a wide range of members, including new “sailing with a purpose” activities.

We’re already building on last year’s successes, beginning with improvements to the on-line membership renewal process. Thanks to John Coode’s hard work, renewals are now simpler, mobile-friendly, and more efficient for both members and volunteers. Members renewing by phone can upload photos for their membership profile—an important step toward enhancing our onboarding experience and developing a future electronic version of the Windjammer.

We are also committed to re-establish the Long-Range Planning Committee this year, and are seeking two or three volunteers from the membership-at-large. If you’re interested in helping shape the club’s future, please reach out to me.

With a dedicated Board and strong volunteer support, we’re excited to build on last year’s accomplishments and make 2026 an outstanding season.

On behalf of the Board, I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at social events this winter.

Member Updates



John Coode
Vice
Commodore
Membership
Chair

Sailing Education



Barry White

As we begin 2026, it’s great to reflect back on last year’s sailing season and start looking forward to this summer! Thank you to the hard work of our members; we have improved the harbor

I am looking forward to a great season for sail education. Please feel free to set up a time for you and family members to get out on our club boats this season. Any members needing help with understanding their boats, feel free to let

and other facilities and are ready to start sailing.

We are looking forward to seeing you at PYC this summer. Attached is your renewal information so that you can make sure that you're ready to sail!

New in 2026, we have made the renewal form more phone-friendly, and based on the requests of several members, we have added an ice pre-payment option. You will still have the option to pay via check or PayPal. A convenience fee applies to PayPal payments.

Renewals have gone out and become late as of the day after the spring membership meeting, March 28, so don't delay! It helps the Board plan for the entire year financially, so it is helpful to the whole club to renew now.

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

me know. Reach out with any questions you may have I'd be happy to help.



*Some of you have seen and have commented on the Blue Cross Blue Shield commercial on tv and/or on Facebook recently. If you watched closely enough, you may have noticed several of our PYC members having their half- second of fame in the commercial. The short version of the back-story: The producer of the BCBS commercial is an avid sailor, and he reached out to PYC asking if the production company could shoot some sailing footage. That ask expanded into also having a campfire on our beach. We obliged, and in return for our efforts, the Club received donations totalling over \$1,500.

Thank you to the following members who participated in the photo shoot:

- Steve and Deb Murphy (who also graciously hosted the sailing portion of the photo shoot on their boat)
- Joe Glasgow and Madi Martin
- Pat and Cynthia Moore
- Brian and Susan Pitts
- Ricardo Oben
- Jimmy Rits
- Kirby White



- Doug Butcher

This was a fun experience that generated some unexpected income for the Club. All members are encouraged to keep your ears peeled for future opportunities like this. If you do hear of anything, please make any board member aware of the opportunity, no matter how unusual it may be.

*NOTE: PYC's participation is not an endorsement of BCBS insurance.

Social Updates

Kathleen Coode
Baretta Schmeissner
Social Chairs



Happy New Year, Sailors!

Thank you to all our members who contributed their time and talent to our 2025 social events.

The input of every member adds variety and personality to our gatherings.

I invite anyone interested to talk with me about our 2026 social events. We need party hosts and helpers. All ideas are welcome. Our Commodore hopes to have a party at Hobie Beach this year, so if you have creative ideas for a beach party, let's discuss!

We will hold a social event in January, and I will post details on the website and the Perry Yacht Club Facebook page.

Stay tuned!

Harbormaster/ Brandon Hamilton

As I step into the role of Harbor Master, I wanted to share a brief update on several waterfront items and what members can expect in the coming months.

This past October, Perry Yacht Club completed the installation of a new concrete floating breakwater.



This is a significant and long-term improvement to our harbor and represents a major investment in protecting boats and infrastructure. With the new breakwater in place, we

are also working to responsibly address materials from the previous plastic-barrel breakwater. Some components were reused within the harbor, some were collected and stored on the hard, and a small number may still be in the lake. Our intent is to inventory what remains, recover any remaining materials as conditions allow, and ensure reuse or proper disposal. This work is part of our ongoing commitment to safety, environmental stewardship, and good lake management.

High water conditions continue to be a recurring challenge at Lake Perry. To address this proactively, the Board has established a High Water Committee to focus on monitoring conditions, identifying risks, and coordinating response efforts related to docks, ramps, and harbor infrastructure. The goal is to improve preparedness and reduce last-minute disruptions when lake levels change.

One area receiving early attention is the connection between the floating docks and the shoreline—particularly how dock ramps are anchored and behave during high water events. I'll be working with the Commodore, Vice Commodore, and Buildings & Grounds to review current conditions and identify any improvements that may be needed to ensure safe and reliable access.

Members can help by reporting any floating debris, damage, or developing hazards as soon as they are noticed. Early awareness allows issues to be addressed before they become larger problems.

I look forward to working with the Board and membership to keep our harbor safe, functional, and enjoyable for everyone. Thank you for the continued care of your boats and our shared waterfront.

Building & Grounds Doug Simons

I want to provide a brief update on our progress and highlight a few items that need our attention in the new year.

1. **Boat & Trailer Inventory**

We are currently completing our year-end inventory. We have noticed several trailers on the property that lack names or identification.



- **Action Required:** If you have a trailer on-site, please ensure it is clearly marked with your name or ID as soon as possible. This helps us maintain accurate records and ensures your equipment is accounted for.

2. **Ongoing Projects & Volunteer Needs**

We've made great progress this year, but we need a final push on a few key projects:

- Lower Stairs: We would greatly appreciate a few extra hands to help complete the construction.
- Bathroom Updates: We are planning refreshes for the facilities in the coming months.
- Tool Shed: Please help us keep the tool shed clean and organized. If you have extra hand tools you'd like to donate, the club is always in need!

2026 Board Members

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

Commodore: [Doug Butcher](#);

Vice Commodore: [John Coode](#);

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](#);