



SEMAPHORE

Volume 58 Issue 2, February 2025



Commodore's Corner

Doug Butcher

I hope everyone made it through our first real winter blast last week. So far, our experiment of keeping the bathrooms open during the winter is working well. We've been monitoring the temperatures in the Club bathrooms, and are pleased to report they're holding 50-55 degrees without using too much electricity.

At the January Board meeting, we reviewed the age and condition of the Club's AEDs. As a result, the AED nearest to the harbor has been taken out of service, and plans are in progress to replace it before the sailing season starts. Until further notice, the Club's only AED is located between the men's and women's restrooms. If you have any connections that could help us purchase a replacement AED at a discount or through a grant, please contact Doug Simons or myself.

As of February 1, membership renewals are about 70 percent ahead of last year's pace (78 vs 44 last year). A huge THANK YOU!! to everyone who has already renewed. Early renewals are very helpful as the board works through the budget, and so far 2026

is starting out strong. The Board reviewed our current financial position and unanimously approved paying the final new breakwater invoice from reserves. This ability minimized the amount borrowed on the breakwater loan, and should allow us to pay off that debt within five years. Mark will give a detailed financial update at the Spring Members' Meeting.

When renewing this year, we ask that you please upload a photo of yourself and your family. If you've already renewed but did not upload a photo, please email one to John Coode. We hope to include as many photos as possible in the member directory to help members recognize each other. The upcoming February 7 social event is also a great chance to meet new faces. Whether you are a newer member or an "old salt," we look forward to seeing you there.

Until then, stay warm and stay safe. And if the weather improves, maybe stop by and check on your boat—she probably misses you as much as you miss her!

Social News

**Kathleen Coode
& Baretta
Schmeissner**
Social Chairs



Tally ho, Sailors!

Please come to our Winter Social to be held February 7, 2026, at Johnny's. The location is 8719 W 95th Street in Overland Park. (95th & Antioch). We have a private room from 4:30-7:00. The Club will order some pizza. Members are responsible for the drinks. It will be fun to see old friends and meet some of our new members!

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 2-5 p.m.

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.

Thank you to all of our great party hosts and kitchen workers from last season. It is enjoyable to work with all of you.

Financial Updates

Quick reminder as you fill out your 2026 membership renewals. If you have a boat in the harbor over the winter, your renewal should include a \$309 "Winter Slip Fee", likewise if you have a boat stored on the hard (in the parking lot) this winter, your renewal should include a \$129 "Winter on-the-Hard Fee".

Mark Faltermeier Treasurer



Rear Commodore/Sailing Ed Chris Ross & Barry White

For all you Frozen Mid-Western Sailors out there that aren't fortunate enough to be sitting under a palm tree, Spring is around the corner and it's time to start planning for the upcoming Sailing Season.



- **SAVE the DATE!** The PYC Website Calendar of Events has all the activities for the 2026 Season
- Who wants to learn about Sailing?

Youth Sailing: Do you have kids, grand kids, neighbors, or friends with kids?

Adult Sailing: This sport is a lifelong journey of discovery, exploration, adventure, and learning. PYC offers numerous opportunities for (ASA) American Sailing Association courses from basic sailing skills, to boat maintenance and advanced cruising skills for those Turquoise Water Palm Tree Adventures.

Racing 101: Have you ever wondered what those people were doing out there sailing in circles around buoys? Do you get that itch to go faster every time you sail up next to another sailboat. PYC has a growing Racing Fleet, again will have regular racing at the club, and are going to hold some Intro to Racing days at the Club.

Hobie Beach Sailing: Ok who isn't California Dreaming! PYC will be hosting a Beach Party and some of our catamaran sailors will be taking out the curious who want to Catch a Wave and learn a bit more about the Hobie way of Life...

Racing Activities

Round Perry: Come one Come all....once again PYC will host and encourage all members and boats to join us out on the water each month for some Fun Sailing followed by Social Events & Dinner on the Docks and at the Club House! Our August event will be at night under the Full Moon!

J22 (1 Design) Round the Buoys: We are excited about our growing PYC J22 Fleet. We will be holding monthly Club Racing and encouraging all who are interested to crew and join us out on the water. PYC will also be hosting a mid-season J22 Regional Regatta which will be a great event to participate in, watch, and help grow our PYC Racing Program.

KU Sailing Team: PYC is proud to continue to sponsor and host College Sailing and the Kansas University Sailing Team at our club! Along with regular Jayhawk sailing activities you won't want to miss the Spring Big 12 & Fall Rock Chalk Regattas.

Small Boats: Building off our sail education programs we will hold some Sunfish, Laser, and Hobie Wave races for those curious but not yet ready to jump into those bigger boats. Next level for those youth sailors is College 420 Racing. We'll have lots of opportunities to sail, crew and compete with the KU Sailing Team.

Firecracker & Commodore's Cup Regattas: PYC was founded by sailboat racers, since our beginning PYC has hosted these two signature events that draw sailors from across the Midwest. This year will be no different.....*Huzzah!!!*



Vice Commodore John Coode

I am sure you are tired of the cold like me, but the membership committee is already heating up for the season!

Renewals are going well, with about 40% of the memberships already renewed. We appreciate



your early renewals because they help us plan and budget for the year.

We have added several new members in the fall and two already in January. I plan to reach out to people to "sponsor" new members, making sure that they know how to get around the club and help them with any questions. If you would like to volunteer to be a sponsor, please sent me a text!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

New Member Profile *Greg Davis*



Originally from the Seattle area, Greg Davis fell in love with sailing while in High School, racing 2-3 times per week on Lake Washington and Puget Sound during the spring and summer and spent many evenings and weekends at the Lake Union West Marine while attending the University of Washington.

After graduating college with a degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, his love of the sea and aviation inspired him

to apply to the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL to see if he had what it took to land jets on aircraft carriers. Upon completing officer training in December of 1992, Greg reported to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX which was the beginning of a 25 year Navy Aviation career, which included multiple tours flying the EA-6B Prowler both from aircraft carriers and from the shore. His flying career includes deploying to both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as multiple tours as a flight instructor in Whidbey Island, Washington. His other Navy tours included working for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon and commanding the Navy's Operational Support Center in New York City.

After retiring from the Navy, Greg moved to Olathe to work at a local aerospace company in 2017. His daughter, Madison (26) lives in Charlottesville, VA and his son, Donovan, enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating high school at Blue Valley

Southwest in 2020. After Donovan's life was tragically cut short in a Marine Corps H-53 helicopter crash in February 2024, Greg decided that it was time to stop putting off his dream of owning a J-Boat and get back into racing. To that end, Greg recently purchased a 2015 J/95, which he is looking forward to sailing and racing on Lake Perry. He is excited to be a part of the sailing community at the PYC and looking forward to getting back out on the water.

Greg currently owns a commercial audio visual company in Lenexa, and his other passions include skiing and flying his 1977 Bellanca Super Decathlon aerobatic airplane.

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 Lesh;

Ex Officio: Gary Templeton;