



# SEMAPHORE

Volume 56, Issue #11, November 2025



## Commodore's Corner

Larry Bigus

Thank you to the members, the board, and all the volunteers. You made it a pleasure to be your Commodore in 2025. The hard work of many of you resulted in a great year.

It is impossible to single out anyone without risking missing people who spent hours helping. There are some members who averaged more than 20 hours a week volunteering at the club. There are some members who were not visible at the club but worked on projects in the background, putting in a lot of hours every week.

PYC does not run itself but functions as a result of the hard work of the members, including but not limited to the board. As a result of the hard work of many members: membership is up, the slips are full, the club is on sound financial footing, the grounds

are clean and looking good, the new breakwater is awesome, we turned unpaid boats into positive revenue, the kitchen is looking great, the shower houses have been insulated, the workboat has a new motor designed for high torque and low rpm, the regattas were a big success, the parties were a blast and so much more. Most importantly, members are having fun using the lake and the facilities.

As Commodore, I received a total of one complaint this year, and only two people yelled at me. Next year's board will be fantastic with a lot of great new members. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Thanks to you, our members, PYC is the best sail-only club in the Midwest and is getting better every year.

### ***A note From Gary Templeton: Water shutdown, pump station***

Recently, it looked like temperatures were going to hold above freezing for at least the next two weeks, but once again Mother Nature has thrown us a curve ball. Now the weatherman says it will dip below freezing this Saturday night and get down to 18 degrees Sunday night! The hard freeze could cause expensive damage to our water system on the docks so we will be shutting off the system by Friday. The holding tank pump station, aka "Mr. Thirsty", will remain operational until early Sunday afternoon.

There will be no rinse water at Mr. Thirsty after water on the docks has been shut down. Mr. Thirsty will be shut down Sunday afternoon, but will be back in operation Monday afternoon. Those with full holding tanks be advised, Mr. Thirsty will be shut down for the duration of the winter before the next freeze which could happen on short notice.

Water will remain on in the bathrooms throughout the winter, but water in the kitchen will be shut off at some time before we face consistently freezing weather. We have no built in means to heat the kitchen and no way to remotely monitor the temperature like we do in the bathrooms.

## **Member Updates**



**Doug  
Butcher**  
Vice  
Commodore  
Membership  
Chair

Fall colors and cooler temperatures are our sign that the 2025 season is coming to an end. We are ending 2025 in a solid position, and we are postured for a strong start to 2026. During 2025, we

whether a 3 percent annual increase is enough to meet our goals. Several members suggested a higher annual increase should be considered.

The membership passed the following proposal almost unanimously: "Beginning in January 2026, dues will automatically increase by 3 percent per year, unless the board recommends a different amount for a specific year and the members vote to adopt the board's

added 19 new memberships, bringing our total membership to 187 (176 paid memberships and 11 honorary members), with several promising prospects still in the queue. More importantly, our harbor is 100 percent “sold” as we end this season, and we are now starting to assign slips on Sunset dock. I’d like to express my gratitude to everyone who acted as a PYC ambassador, helping to recruit new members this season. Your efforts definitely made a difference.

At the Fall Membership meeting, the members voted on a Board proposal to increase dues by 3 percent annually. The goals of the proposal are to keep the budget balanced, to allow the Club to retire the breakwater debt within five years, and continue to fund a reserve account to cover foreseeable capital expenses within the five-year planning horizon.

Following an outstanding presentation of the Club’s financials by our incoming Treasurer Mark Faltermeier, the only debate about the dues proposal was

recommendation. Dues are defined as the base membership fee, slip fees for summer and winter, and dry storage fees for summer and winter. Dues will be rounded to the nearest dollar after applying the 3 percent increase.”

Based on the above, dues for 2026 will be as follows.

Base Dues: \$670

Slip-summer: \$50 per foot

Slip-winter: \$309

Dry-summer: \$258

Dry-winter: \$129

Thank you for the confidence you’ve placed in me to serve as your Commodore next season. I believe we have an excellent board in place for next season, and we are here to make your experience at PYC the best it can be. If at any time we fall short of your expectations, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.



**Beth Nelson/Treasurer**

Thank you to all of you at PYC for the 20 years of fun and friendships you have given to Dave and me. We truly enjoyed raising our girls at the lake and spending time with all of you. We are moving on to bigger waters in January and will miss you all, but hope to be back for a visit next summer. I have personally enjoyed



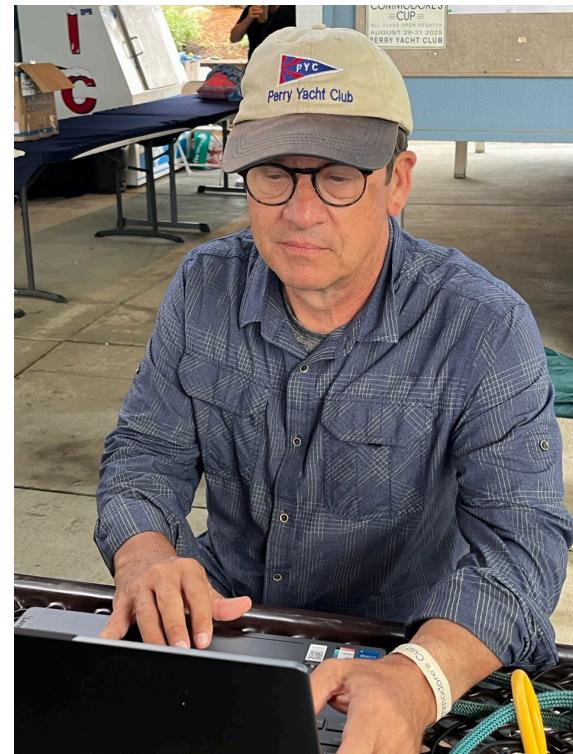
serving as your Treasurer for the past five years. Being a part of the PYC Board of Governors has been the best way to truly get to know the people and their hearts for PYC. I encourage all of you to say "yes" to the Board if asked to serve.

Goodbye for now!

## Dockmaster/John Coode

The WiFi has been turned off for the winter season. Bandwidth will be reduced to save money over the winter.

The Cameras will still be available at <https://www.perryyachtclub.com/cams-weather>, and the weather station will remain on line as well. Wifi will return in March.



## Social Updates

**Kathleen Coode  
Baretta Schmeissner  
Social Chairs**



'Tis the season for THANK YOUS!

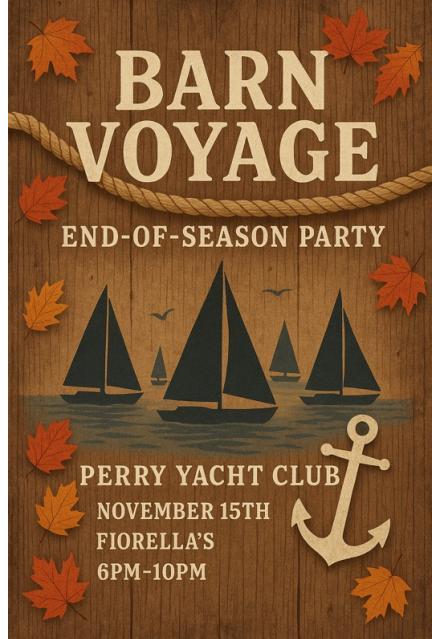
Thank you to Terril Cook and the Still Jammin Band for performing at the annual Cheeseburger in Perrydise. Oct 4 was a great night to be outside at Lake Perry and listen to some music by the lake.

Thank you to our grillmaster Dave Streiler and his loyal knights (assistants)! This is always a fun night at PYC and we appreciate the band who brought their families and friends to add to the group.

Thank you also to all of our hardy members who came out to PYC Club Closing and Work Day on October 25. We had nearly 75 members turn out on a cold, blustery day to do the work required to close PYC for the winter. I especially want to thank those who helped close the kitchen and storeroom for the winter. (Thanks to Mike Carr we have sharp knives for next season!)

Finally, we still have a handful of tickets available for our year-end party on Saturday night, Nov. 15 at Fiorella's Event Space at 9000 W 137th Street in Overland Park, KS. The deadline for reservations is Monday, Nov. 10. Make your reservations at the

[RSVP Now](#) button on the right.



[RSVP Now!](#)

## Memories needed for December Semaphore

What was your favorite memory or story for this year's sailing season? We will share those "good times" in our December Semaphore. Please send your memory (with a photo if you have one) to PYC Communications Chair, Ruth Bigus, at [ruthwrite1@gmail.com](mailto:ruthwrite1@gmail.com). **DEADLINE is MONDAY, Nov. 24.**

## 2025 Board Members

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

**Commodore: [Lawrence Bigus](#);**

**Vice Commodore: [Doug Butcher](#);**

**Treasurer: [Beth Nelson](#);**

**Past Commodore:** [Tina Breedlove](#);  
**Dock Master:** [John Coode](#);  
**Harbour Master:** [Dave Streiler](#);  
**Buildings and Grounds:** [Doug Simons](#);  
**Youth Sailing:** [Barry White](#);  
**Communications:** [Ruth Bigus](#);  
**Social:** [Kathleen Coode](#);  
**Assistant Treasurer:** [Cathi Lesher](#);

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Fall fun at Lake Perry



*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](mailto:members@perryyachtclub.com)