

BUCKEYE LAKE YACHT CLUB

The Log



February 2026 — Volume 107, Issue 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Speaker Series

Thursday, February 5
The Titanic
Joey Giovannelli

Mardi Gras Party
Saturday, February 7
Rese Jhordan

Valentines Dinner
Saturday, February 14
Carl Litts

Sailing Kick-Off & Tar Social
Sunday, February 15
1:00 - 3:00

Speaker Series
Thursday, February 19
Sourdough Bread
Kodi Hutchinson

Race Committee 101
Sunday, February 22
1:00 - 3:00

Speaker Series
Thursday, February 26
Flight Diverted on 9/11
Shirley Brooks-Jones



**COMMODORE
VIC SCHROEDER**

Dear Fellow Members,

As we settle into the quieter winter months here at Buckeye Lake Yacht Club, I want to assure you that the Board, Trustees, and our dedicated Auxiliary are anything but idle. We're hard at work behind the scenes, pouring our energy into initiatives that will elevate our beloved club to new heights—making this 120th year in our storied history one of the strongest yet!

Here are just a few exciting developments underway:

Governor Thom and the House & Grounds Committee are actively reviewing detailed drawings for a brand-new outdoor bar designed to seamlessly serve both the patio and pool areas. This addition will enhance our outdoor spaces and create an even more inviting atmosphere for members and guests during the warmer months

ahead.

As some of you may be aware we are in a search for a new General Manager and progressing exceptionally well. We received over 120 resumes, conducted first-round interviews with 22 strong candidates, and have now narrowed the field to 5 outstanding finalists each with stellar backgrounds and resumes that align perfectly with our club's vision. We're optimistic that one of these talented individuals will step in to take the helm on a full-time basis, building on our already strong team and helping everyone hone their craft to deliver the exceptional experience our members deserve.

For those of you staying around the club this February, there's plenty to enjoy and look forward to despite the winter chill:

- Our guest bartender events continue to bring fresh energy and fun behind the bar.
- The speaker series offers engaging evenings with great conversation and camaraderie.
- And of course, Chef Josh and his talented team are preparing some truly amazing offerings for our special Valentine's Day dinner, a perfect romantic evening!

Make your reservations now to secure your spot!

Thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

Commodore Vic Schroeder
Commodore@buckeyelakeyc.com

DOCKS & RENTALS

– Vice Commodore Rickie Sue Grunden

Invoicing: February is the beginning of the boating season at BLYC. Many of you are off to look at new boats at various boat shows while others are making summer boating plans. Invoicing for docks and the Eastport boatyard are in the mail! Remember to send in your boat insurance declaration page and your boat registration with your payment. Both are required by the BLYC insurance carrier. If you are storing a boat in Eastport, sign and return your lease agreement as well.

Dock Wait List: If you are interested in a dock at BLYC, complete the online application on the website. You will be assigned a dock according to the BLYC guidelines set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws. We do have docks available and have assigned docks to most of the people on the wait list.

Eastport Dock Modification: The good news is that our junior sailing classes are growing, and we need more space to launch our class sailboats. To accommodate the ramp and the floats, those who are next to the junior ramp will be moved to another dock. This will be part of the February invoicing.

Eastport Boatyard: March is the starting date for widening Route 79. We will be moving boats and trailers that are close to the roadway in February. We will contact you before we move you to another spot. If you are interested in boat and trailer storage, complete the online application on the website.

Thin Ice: The ice around Watkins Island and all our docks at Eastport and Area 8 could be thin. Accessing the lake from our docks is prohibited.

Docking Lines: Race and Regatta once again have a series of classes in February and March regarding sailing and boating. This is a good time to refresh your boating and docking skills and to gain knowledge about the rules of the sea. If you have issues tying off your boat, this is a good time to learn how our more experienced boaters wrap up the problem! The Safety at Sea (Buckeye Ocean) class is Sunday, March 8th from 1:00-3:00. Make 2026 your safest boating season!

To all whose boat is the love of their life...

Happy Valentines Day!

Rickie Sue Grunden
DocksandRentals@buckeyelakeyc.com

LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR DINING EXPERIENCE

www.buckeyelakeyc.com/feedback

RACE & REGATTA

– Rear Commodore Bob Hegedus

Greetings, Sailors and Boaters!

While the lake might look a bit chilly from the clubhouse windows, we are already firing on all cylinders.

We are hard at work behind the scenes finalizing the schedules, submitting the necessary permits with ODNR, and ensuring everything is shipshape for the moment the ice clears and the docks return.

Here is what you need to know for February:

Save the Date: Sailing Kickoff & Tar Social

Dust off your deck shoes and join us on Sunday, February 15th! This is our official season launch event, and we want to see a full house.

- **The Plan:** We'll be discussing our exciting vision for the 2026 racing season, including regatta dates and fleet updates.
- **The Fun:** This is a joint Tar Social, so expect great company and plenty of fun and games!
- **The Challenge:** Among other challenges, we'll be hosting a knot-tying competition. Whether you're a seasoned pro who can tie a bowline behind your back or a novice looking to learn the difference between a reef knot and a granny knot, come sharpen your skills with us!

Save the Date: Race committee 101

Join us on February 22nd from 1:00 – 3:00 as we review the rules and regulations critical to running our races!

Fleet Launch Day is Calling

If you're starting to get "cabin fever," take heart: Fleet Launch Day is just around the corner! (Okay, maybe it's a long corner... but it's definitely on the horizon!) Now is the perfect time to start checking your rigging, ordering that new line, and dreaming of those warm summer breezes. We are counting down the days until we can get the fleet back where it belongs—on the water.

Quick Tip: Check your safety gear now, so you aren't rushing in April. If your life jackets or flares need replacing, the off-season is the best time to beat the spring rush!

Did you get my Race and Regatta email update sent on January 17th? If not, and you would like to receive sailing updates, drop me an email to let me know you would like to be added to the race and regatta email list!

Bob Hegedus
RaceandRegatta@buckeyelakeyc.com

BLYC SPEAKER SERIES



THE TITANIC

Thursday, February 5

Joey Giovannelli

SOURDOUGH BREAD

Thursday, February 19

Kodi Hutchinson

FLIGHT DIVERTED ON 9/11

Thursday, February 26

Shirley Brooks-Jones

BUCKEYE LAKE WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Thursday, March 5

Pete Thomas

CIDER

Thursday, March 19

Bob Hegedus

HANGING BY A THREAD THE EXTREME SPORT OF HANG GLIDING

Thursday, March 26

Mark Thogmartin

COMMUNICATIONS

– Governor Kendall Cottongim

I don't know about everyone else, but sometimes February in Ohio can be a very difficult time of year for me. The cold temperatures, the lack of sunshine, no Buckeye football, no swimming pool, and no boating can be taxing to my physical and mental well-being. But that is when we pick ourselves up and head to the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club. Your Board Members and staff are working hard behind the scenes to chase those winter blues away. And I know I always feel a little brighter after spending a couple hours among my fellow friends and members. I do have one suggestion as well – if you have the time, make a reservation for dinner starting at about 5:00 in the evening for dinner in the poolside dining room. The sunset there will not disappoint you.

I know I said this last month, but it bears repeating – remember to check the weekly e-News that comes out on Wednesday via email. If you are not getting emails, please let me or the office staff know and we will resolve your email address. Save the calendar at the back of every Log and check it often for special events. And make sure to like the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club Facebook page to also see cool pictures and up to date information. Last thing – if you haven't done so, please make sure to update your member profile including adding a picture so our servers can make sure it is really you when they process transactions on your behalf. Again, my email is communications@buckeyelakeyc.com and I look forward to hearing from you for any issues or good words you would like to share.

Be SAFE! Stay warm! See you at the Club.

Kendall Cottongim
Communications@buckeyelakeyc.com



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

– *Mark Thogmartin, Fleet Chaplain*

What's In a Name?

“Well, I still don’t like him! What kind of a man doesn’t name his boat?”

~ *Amber Silvia, Unspoken*

I've owned two sailboats in my life. The previous owner of the first one, a Sovereign 5.0, painted his wife's name on the stern as a tribute to her, and probably to soften her attitude toward his sailing obsession. My second was an O'Day 222, and even though the boat was over 35 years old, it had never been named.

Much superstition and lore exist around the naming and renaming of sea vessels. Here are a few summary points:

- Boat naming and renaming should not be taken lightly. A boat's name is recorded in “the ledger of the deep,” and to name or rename a boat without care could invite the wrath of the sea gods.
- To rename a boat, the previous name must be erased completely, not only from the hull, but from every existing bit of paraphernalia associated with the boat – clothing, keychains, logs, life rings, and the like. The new name can be revealed after an appropriate spoken invocation to the sea gods and after pouring an expensive alcohol libation into the water near the boat (this will appease the ocean divinities).
- Never name a boat after a previously ill-fated vessel, like the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, or after bad weather like *Hurricane*, or boastfully as in *Unsinkable* or *Eat My Wake*.
- Do not name a boat after a deceased person or after a scorned ex-lover. This is seen as taunting the fates.
- A tradition has developed that a boat's name should not have 7 letters, like in the name *Titanic*. So, think twice before christening your new craft *Buckeye* or *Bubbles* or *PullTab*.

Shakespeare famously said, “What’s in a name?” Anyone who is a student of the Bible knows how important names are in the scriptural narrative. God Himself is called by many names, including El Shaddai, the Almighty, Father, and Jehovah. The Apostle Paul said that God has bestowed on Jesus Christ “the name that is above all names” (Philippians 2:9). And what’s wonderfully comforting is the fact that He knows every one of us by name. So, whether you are named after a windstorm, a deceased relative, or a sunken ship doesn’t matter to the Almighty. If you call on Him, He will answer you by name.

Mark Thogmartin
Fleet Chaplain@buckeyelakeyc.com

HOUSE & GROUNDS

– *Governor Brian Thom*

WARNING!

Don’t forget Valentine’s Day is coming up! Make sure to get your loved one some chocolate. I’m not picky so you can get me any kind.

House and grounds continues to stay busy around the club with general maintenance. One thing we take very seriously is safety. Rick Thompson has done an excellent job of salting and plowing our parking lot and sidewalks for us and keeping them clear and safe. Please be sure to watch out for club emails or Facebook updates during weather events for any delayed openings or closures.

As you may have heard, the Village of Buckeye Lake will be widening the roads, and construction is projected to start this spring. As we gather more information, we will update the membership as there may be some minor disruptions entering club parking lots.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with another successful Winterfest! We couldn’t have done it without you. Hope to see everyone soon!

Brian Thom

HouseandGrounds@buckeyelakeyc.com



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each and can be
purchased via member
charge online. Just
scan the QR code to
get yours today! The
winning ticket will be
drawn February 28.



BAR & KITCHEN

– Governor Bill Ghiz

Greetings from Bar & Kitchen!

We don't have a lot of news to report. We are continuing our popular Guest Bartender Nights. Please reach out to me if you are interested in being a guest bartender.

Don't forget you can always enjoy dinner in our beautiful Fireplace Room with a lovely view of the lake.

We're also excited to be adding some new events this year, including: Christmas in July, Cake decorating, Wine & Sipping with cake decorating led by Pastry Chef Kodi, and a Welcome Back Party for our snowbirds from Florida

As always, we are looking for ideas and suggestions for menu items for our weekly features — your input is always appreciated.

I can be reached anytime on my cell at (740) 415-4033 for comments or concerns.

Have a safe February!

Bill Ghiz

BarandKitchen@buckeyelakeyc.com

2026 Sailing Kick-Off &

Tar Social

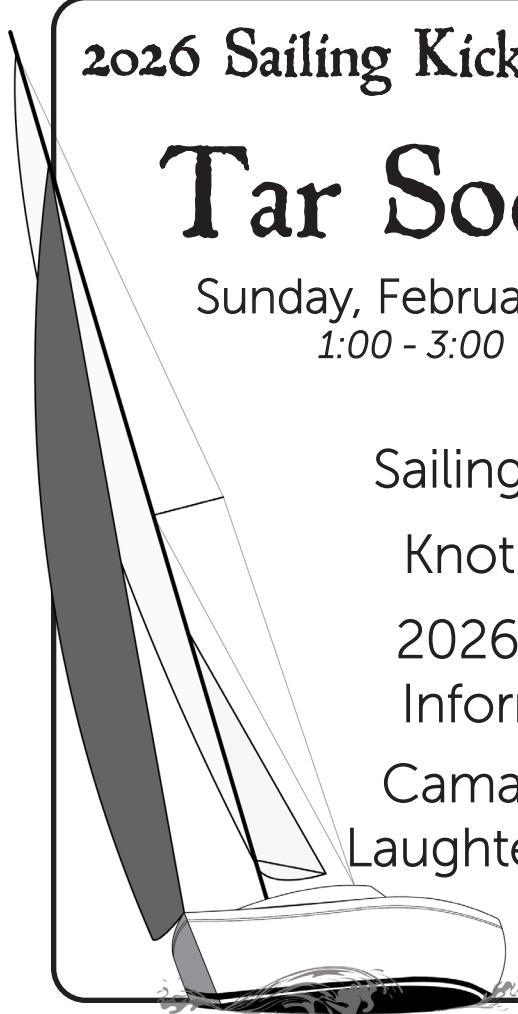
Sunday, February 15
1:00 - 3:00

Sailing Games

Knot Relays

2026 Sailing
Information

Camaraderie,
Laughter, & FUN



MEMBERSHIP

– Governor Mike Perez

At the January board meeting, we had one new member voted into the club. They are listed below with their first mate.

Monica Martinelli (no first mate)

We also had one first reading that will be voted on at the February board meeting. Check out their information on the bulletin board in the bar area.

Membership is currently open as we figure out what our attrition will be for 2026. If you know of someone who wants to become a member, have them submit an online application. Now is a great time to join!

Please continue to make sure all your personal information is current in the member directory. It can be updated through your portal.

Now that January is behind us, we can now start thinking about spring and the upcoming boating season. Hopefully, you're enjoying all the club has to offer during the winter months.

See you at the club!

Mike Perez

Membership@buckeyelakeyc.com

Interested in Helping on Race Committee this year?

Join us for

Race Committee 101

Sunday, February 22
1:00 - 3:00



ENTERTAINMENT

— Governor Dean Pickett

Happy Valentines Day !

With it being February, we are in our slower part of our calendar, Winterfest is now complete (thank you to all the volunteers and BLYC staff) and our Speaker Series is well on its way (Thank You P/C Luttenberger).

In February, we have the following entertainment events;

- Feb 5th – Speaker Series – *The Titanic*
- Feb 7th – *Mardi Gras* with Rese Jhordan
- Feb 14th – *Valentines Day* with Carl Litts
- Feb 15th – *Sailing Tar Social*
- Feb 19th – Speaker Series – *Sourdough*
- Feb 26th – Speaker Series – *Flight Diverted*

Thank you all for making the BLYC a great place on the lake.

Dean Pickett
Entertainment@buckeyelakeyc.com



Valentine's Dinner

Saturday, February 14

Appetizers

- Red Beet Salad
- French Onion Soup
in bread bowl
- Smoked Salmon Dip
- Baked Brie Bites
- Caprese

Entrees

- Marry Me Chicken Pasta
- Pan Seared Sea Bass
- Steak Diane

with optional Crabcake or Lobster tail addon

Desserts

- Orange Chocolate Chip Cannolis
- Dark Chocolate Souffle
with Raspberries & Whipped Cream

Pricing will be shared in an upcoming e-News



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
7TH**

SOUP

Chicken & Sausage Gumbo

SALAD

Baked Cabbage Wedge

*with Beets, Bacon, & Crispy Onions
served with an Orange Marmalade Vinaigrette*

APPETIZERS

Fried Gator Bites

Fried Oysters

Cajun Wings

ENTREES

Red Beans & Rice

Blackened Cod Fish or Chicken
with Red Beans & Rice, Collard Greens

Crawfish Etouffee

Po' Boys

with choice of Fried Oysters, Crawfish & Sausage, or Shrimp & Sausage

Cajun Beef & Grits

DESSERTS

Mini King Cakes

Beignets

Pricing will be shared in an upcoming e-News



JUNIOR TRAINING

– Governor Jen Lynch



**THANK YOU
WINTERFEST
VOLUNTEERS!**



The BLYC Junior Training program is in full swing for the 2026 season. The regatta series dates are set and planning is underway. The junior sailing camp registration is live and filling up fast! With the planning and diligence of our coaches we have expanded the sailing camps to allow for more juniors to participate. We are grateful for Katy Schroeder and Kyle Buchwalter, our Buckeye Lake Yacht Club Junior Sailing Head Instructor and Race Team Coach, on all of their efforts to have a successful program this year.

We have purchased EZ Docks and looking forward to getting those installed for the 2026 season. This new investment will allow for easier and safer access for our sailors and provide for a better experience and more time on the water.

Please mark your calendar--we are hosting a chili cook off fundraiser on March 28th for the junior training program—look out for more details to come!

Wishing you a warm and peaceful February!

Jen Lynch

JuniorTraining@buckeyelakeyc.com

LOOKING AFT

- P/C Steve Harris, BLYC Historian

Our Own Island Home!

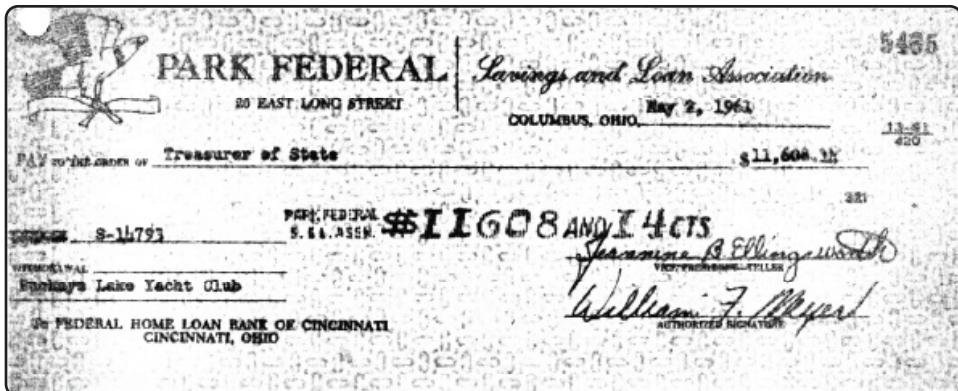
Today we, the members of BLYC, call Watkins Island home. While we have done so since 1907, its only been "ours" for about half of our history, and it hasn't always been known as "Watkins" Island. In fact, in the beginning, it was barely an island at all!

When the Club was formed in the spring of 1906, it held its early events at various locations around the lake — in particular, the Lake Tourist Hotel on the south shore. Certainly, finding a permanent home for the Club was of paramount importance and, in 1907, several members formed the Buckeye Lake Building Company, a for profit corporation, to sell shares in order to finance a Clubhouse. In that time, the State of Ohio, specifically the Canal Commission and later the State Board of Public Works, owned most of the land surrounding, and all of the islands within, the lake. Those lands were then leased to the citizens for private use.

The Building Company first tried to assume ownership of a delinquent lease on Castle Island, but the lessee got wind of the effort and paid his arrears. Later, the Building Company was able to buy out a lease held by Colonel William Wells, an early BLYC member, on a spot of "sometimes land... surrounded by always shallow water... and, in spring, often flooded completely" known as "Sunken Island" at a cost of \$3.00 per year. A somewhat spartan "clubhouse" and boathouses were erected that year on the east edge of the island and efforts to dredge the surrounding waters and raise the island began.

Sunken Island, although unique, is not a particularly attractive name — especially for a "Yacht Club." But, it was our home and the young Buckeye Lake Yacht Club grew and enjoyed many activities there.

Instrumental in both the founding of the Club and in the many improvements at Buckeye Lake was George Watkins. Watkins had served as the Ohio Erie Canal Superintendent and, later, as the President of the Board of Public Works. At the Club's Annual "Tar Social" in April of 1908



"Uncle George" reported on the many improvements thus far accomplished at the lake — new waste weirs, repairs to the leaking dam, and a significant increase in boat registrations — all monies from which were designated for further improvements at Buckeye Lake. He was met with "irrepressible applause" and, on the spot, the members of BLYC voted to rename "Sunken Island" to "Watkins Island" in his honor and in appreciation for his good works at Buckeye Lake. The island was finally, officially, dedicated as such on July 4, 1925 with a bronze plaque hanging in, what was that season, the "new" dining room.

The first clubhouse was barely adequate, but it served its purpose well. As the Club grew through the early 1900's several key members joined, purchased shares in the Building Company, and brought both their talents and passion to the effort of building a "real" Clubhouse on Watkins Island. Among these were Harry Freeman, a Columbus real estate developer (who later also developed Harbor Hills), Walter Whitacre, a Columbus lumberman, and Harry Holbrook, a noted Columbus architect (who also designed the Midland Theater in Newark.) These men made the new clubhouse, our current Clubhouse, a reality. Completed and dedicated on May 4, 1913, it was built at a cost of \$5,000, for which the Club would pay annual rent to the Buckeye Lake Building Company of \$800 per year.

By the 1930's, BLYC had secured control of the majority of shares in the Building Company. The Building Company was dissolved and its ownership of the Clubhouse was transferred to BLYC. BLYC assumed the Building Company's lease on the island in December of 1938, now at a significantly higher annual rate

than that originally paid by Col. Wells. For years, BLYC continued in its beautiful, Victorian-style Clubhouse on Watkins Island, leased from the State of Ohio.

In the fall of 1957, the State passed a resolution declaring the lands in, and much of the lands surrounding Buckeye Lake, Indian Lake, and Grand Lake St. Mary's (all previously canal reservoirs), as "unnecessary" for public use and offered them for sale to the leaseholders — including offering Watkins Island to BLYC. The Club had the land appraised and arrived at a value of around \$5,000. Although a lot of money, it was certainly possible. BLYC had over \$9,000 in savings earmarked for "land purchase." However, when the State presented their offer in June of 1960, it included nearly 30% more land — much of it underwater — than that which the Club had based its estimate on... and at a higher price. The total cost would now be over \$11,000! Although meeting minutes from the time are incomplete, it is clear that there was much discussion and disagreement on proceeding with the purchase. After all, why would the Club want to pay for land that was covered by water? In the end, the purchase was approved by the Board of Trustees in August of 1960, the payment was made to the State of Ohio on May 2nd and, on May 22, 1961 the Quit Claim Deed transferring ownership of Watkins Island to BLYC forever was signed by Ohio Governor Michael DiSalle.

Incidentally, most of the "extra" land included in the sale is between Watkins Island and Northbank. Fifty-five years later, in 2016, that fact was critical in our negotiations to maintain our access to and our ability to use the island and Clubhouse during and following the dam remediation project... Money well spent.

FRIDAY NIGHT POKER

Join us every Friday in the Commodores Lounge!

Contact Mark Yerke for more information
markyerke@gmail.com



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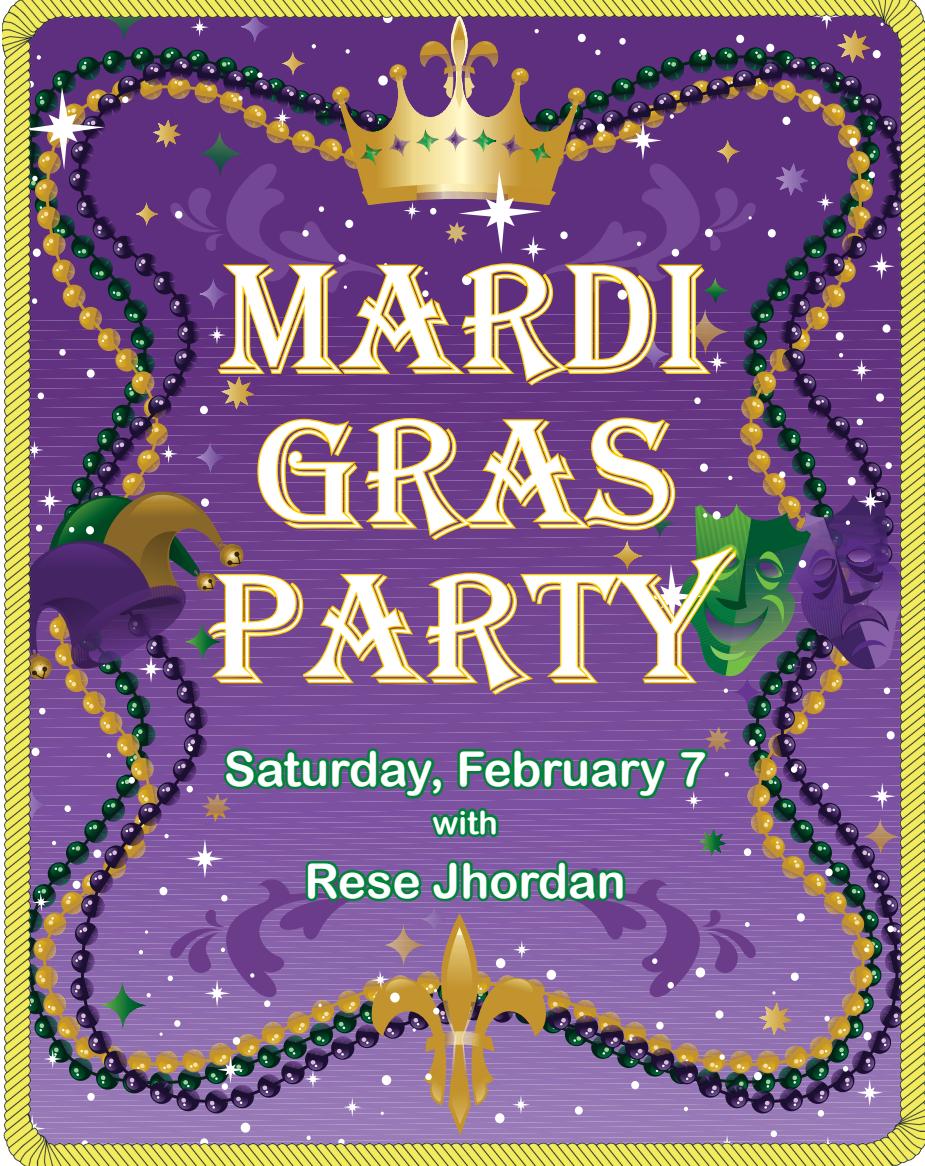
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FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dining 9:00-7:00	Club Closed	Club Closed	Speaker Series The Titanic Joey Giovannelli	Mardi Gras Party Rese Jhordan 7:00 - 10:00	Valentines Dinner Carl Litts 7:00 - 10:00	
			Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 11:00-9:00
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Dining 9:00-7:00	Club Closed	Club Closed	Board Meeting			
			Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 11:00-9:00
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Dining 9:00-7:00	Club Closed	Club Closed	Speaker Series Sourdough Bread Kodi Hutchinson			
			Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 11:00-9:00
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Race Committee 101 1:00-3:00	Club Closed	Club Closed	Speaker Series Flight Diverted on 9/11 Shirley Brooks-Jones			
			Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 5:00-9:00	Dining 11:00-9:00



MARDI GRAS PARTY

Saturday, February 7
with
Rese Jhordan

STANDING COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS

Secretary/Treasurer	Rick Hoffman	Commodores Association	Commodore Rose McEntire
Fleet Captain — Sail	David Paligo	Insurance Committee	Commodore Bill Collinson
Fleet Captain — Power	Brian Thom	Classic Boat Regatta	Commodore Charlie Campbell
Fleet Surgeon	Doctor John Vangilder, M.D.	Snowball Regatta	Commodore Steve Harris
Fleet Chaplain	Mark Thogmartin, PhD	Annual Golf Outing	Commodore Jeff Hamilton
I-LYA Delegate	Commodore Don Harris	Bob Dye Memorial Poker Run	Barb Hein
Parliamentarian	Tom Campbell	Commodores' Steak Nite	Commodore Greg Miller
Historian	Commodore Steve Harris		Commodore Mark Russell
Finance Committee	Commodore Mark Pyle, Chair	Good Neighbor Committee	Commodore Rose McEntire
	Commodore David Luttenberger		Commodore Greg Miller
	Commodore Rose McEntire		Mallory Miller-Sherer
	Commodore Charlie Campbell	Classic Car Show	Jeff Schwartz
	Commodore Bill Collinson	Howard & Rosa Clark	Commodore Greg Miller
	Commodore Mike Bruckelmeyer	Scholarship Fund	Evan Miller
	Vice Commodore Vic Schroeder		

5109 Northbank
Watkins Island
P.O. Box 867
Buckeye Lake, OH 43008

BUCKEYE LAKE YACHT CLUB

(740) 929-9941

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Commodore	Vic Schroeder
Vice Commodore	Rickie Sue Grunden <i>Docks & Rentals</i>
Rear Commodore	Governor Bob Hegedus <i>Race & Regatta</i>
Governor Kendall Cottongim	<i>Communications</i>
Governor Bill Ghiz	<i>Bar & Kitchen</i>
Governor Jen Lynch	<i>Junior Training</i>
Governor Mike Perez	<i>Membership</i>
Governor Dean Pickett	<i>Entertainment</i>
Governor Brian Thom	<i>House & Grounds</i>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commodore Rose McEntire
Commodore Charlie Campbell
Commodore Jeff Hamilton
Commodore Mike Bruckelmeyer
Commodore Bill Collinson

CLUB MANAGEMENT

Ish Howe, Front-of-House Manager
Josh Hutchinson, Executive Chef
Rebecca Miller, Office Manager

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Michele DelMatto
Vice President Cathy Blaies
Vice President Kim Oyer
Co-Treasurer Julie Bruckelmeyer
Co-Treasurer Mike Bruckelmeyer
Secretary Lori Falter