

The object of the Sandusky Sailing Club shall be the promotion and encouragement of sailing and seamanship, and of a sportsmanlike attitude toward racing and competition. The Club is organized to encourage small boat sailing and racing among those who may not be able to afford large annual dues and assessments.



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[www.sanduskysailingclub.com](http://www.sanduskysailingclub.com)  
Battery Park, Sandusky, Ohio 44871

## January 2026 Cross Bearings

01/06	Tues	SJSI meeting.....	7:00pm
01/07	Wed	SJRT meeting.....	8:00am
01/12	Mon	Sadler Basin Committee mtg.....	7:00pm
01/13	Tues	SSC Board meeting .....	7:00pm
01/16	Fri	Friday night feed by Ice Boat Fleet	6:00pm
01/24	Sat	Riedy Family Holiday party .....	2:00pm
01/25	Sun	PC Doller Celebration of Life.....	1:00pm
02/03	Tues	SJSI meeting. ....	7:00pm
02/04	Wed	SJRT meeting. ....	8:00am
02/06	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
02/09	Mon	Sadler Basin Committee mtg.....	7:00pm
02/10	Tues	SSC Board meeting .....	7:00pm
02/13	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
02/20	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
02/27	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm

For more info, go to [www.sanduskysailingclub.com](http://www.sanduskysailingclub.com).  
Go to "community" then drop down to "event calendar."

## From the Helm ..... Comm. Tim Willford Happy New Year, SSC!

Just because the sails are furled and the docks are quiet doesn't mean the club has gone into hibernation. Behind the scenes, your fellow members are hard at work making 2026 another year of smooth sailing, community growth, and thoughtful progress.

**Big digital news: Clubspot is coming!** After years of discussion and planning—going all the way back to PC Wes Blazer and PC Jason Huffman—we're finally making the leap from *Memberclicks* to *Clubspot*. This is a huge step forward in modernizing how we manage everything from:

- Membership & Dockage
- Club Communications
- Galley and Bar Point-of-Sale
- Event Registration and Race Scoring

For members, this means a smoother experience across the board, easier access to your info, and a whole new level of convenience. Expect to hear more in the coming months as we roll this out.

**Construction detour alert** - If you're heading to the club this winter, heads up! The City of Sandusky has begun ground remediation in Battery Park, affecting our normal entrance. Until further notice, you'll want to:

- Enter the parking lot north of the police station
  - Follow the route around the skate park
- Yes, it's a bit of a scenic route—watch out for kickflips—but the clubhouse, boats, and basin are still right where we left them.

## Battery Park Oversight Committee -

With major development happening behind our fence line, the Board has officially formed a dedicated Battery Park Liaison Committee. Their job: to maintain strong, consistent communication with the city and the developers, ensuring SSC stays in the loop and at the table.

This committee is chaired by PC John Giordano, with members PC Bryan Huntley, PC Bruce Roberts, PC Pete Grant, PC Mark Gross, and PC Bill Semans. If you have any questions, feedback, or concerns about the Battery Park development, please channel them through these committee members so we can speak with one strong, unified voice.

**Condolences go out to the family of PC Jack Doller.** Jack passed away peacefully on Dec. 17. He was a long-time member starting in 1947 and served as Commodore in 1974. His presence will be greatly missed at SSC. A service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1:00pm with a celebration of life at 1:00pm on Sunday, Jan 25 at SSC.



**2026 is your year to jump in, lend a hand, and make waves!** Whether you've been here for decades or just stepped onto the dock last summer, there's a place for you in the heartbeat of SSC. From flipping burgers at Friday Night Feeds to hoisting marks with Race Committee, setting up regattas, or just jumping in where help is needed—our club runs on people power. Volunteering is more than giving back; It's where friendships form, stories are made, and SSC magic happens. So don't sit on the sidelines this year—get involved, get inspired, and help us make 2026 unforgettable.

**That's it for now, but stay tuned—2026 is shaping up** to be a big one. And as always, this club is powered by people like you. Thanks for being the heart of SSC.

— **Commodore "Toledo" Tim Willford**

## Paws and Reflect .....a winter note from First Mate Pippa

Hi frens, it's me—Pippa, your loyal First Mate and fluffy shoreline sentinel.

**Let's be real: it's ruff out here.** The docks are quiet, the burgers are missing, and no one's dropped a single snack in WEEKS. I've been patrolling the clubhouse, doing the very important work of sniff-checking every snowdrift and keeping the geese in line while the humans are off doing whatever snowbirds do. No one asked me to be in charge... but let's face it, I was always in charge.

But don't worry, I'm not sulking (well... not too much). I'm just daydreaming about boat rides with the wind in my ears, chasing ice cubes around the patio, and offering my expert opinions on every burger, brat, and bite that hits the grill. So you better believe when summer rolls back in—I'll be ready to bark the house down with excitement. Until then, stay warm, stay safe, and remember: Pippa's got an eye on the fort.  
***See you on the docks – First Mate Pippa***

### **Vice Commodore's Comments....VC Tim Ujvari**

***Happy holidays. The December Christmas Party*** was a festive event and the meal was spectacular. Thank you RC Robbie and Kitty Stone for hosting the event.

***Battery Park development*** - As reported in last month's *Cross Bearings*, site preparation activities for the Battery Park development are an initial phase of work. This work is beginning and access from Meigs Street will change from time to time based on the order of site work. Access at the security gate is not scheduled to change.

### ***I wish all our members and their families a Happy New Year.***

As we look ahead to this year's sailing season and with enthusiasm we will make it again another memorable season at our Sandusky Sailing Club.

### **From the Rear .....RC Robbie Stone**

***Well, it's official: The days are now getting longer!*** Even though warm weather and the sailing season are still a few months away, we have Fireside Fridays starting again in February. A sign-up sheet is in the Clubhouse, or contact Kitty or me directly. I am working to get some guest speakers scheduled for one day a month as we continue through winter. More on that later as we iron out the details.

***Let's talk about the galley.*** We had our health department inspection, and the inspector provided feedback based on observations over the past year. Remember, health inspectors can show up anytime, unannounced, and we can be fined for violations. Here are some key things we need to be more diligent about:

- The sink by the coffee pot and microwave may only be used for hand washing. Even rinsing out a coffee pot in this sink is a violation.
- Any dishes done in the galley or dairy bar must be washed using the three sinks in the back of the galley. If you are not familiar with the process, please seek clarification before doing any dishes.
- You cannot store personal food items in the galley refrigerator.
- Any items stored in the refrigerator or freezer **MUST** have a date on them.

Remember, the Galley is a commercial kitchen with a food service license attached. Without it, there are no Fireside Fridays, Friday Night Feeds or regatta meals. Your cooperation regarding these matters is greatly appreciated.

***On a sailing note***, do you know what type of sailing organizations are growing the fastest? According to US Sailing and Boat US, it's Family Sailing Centers. What is that? It sounds kind of like a sailing club, and it is. The underlying driver is a straightforward concept. Organizations, regardless of what they call themselves, are growing when they find a



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way to attract families. I thought this might be a good thing to think about as we move into 2026. How do we attract more families?

### **Two Cents from the Treasury ....Dave & Bernie**

***2026 Dockage*** - Thank you to all the berth holders who have paid their 2026 Dockage. The Sadler Committee has a full agenda of projects that need your funds. A subtle reminder that those who haven't: You are late!

***2026 Dues*** - Coming up next will be dues for the new year. Keep an eye out for your emailed Dues Statement that includes the new rates that the Board and Membership have established after a thorough review of our budget needs. SSC is still the best deal on the Lake. Your prompt payment is appreciated.

### **Sadler Sailing Basin .....**

**Chairman PC Bryan Huntley and Dock Master Doug Klein**

***Low Water*** - It looks like the basin and the boats in it all survived the record low water we experienced recently. Gave us a chance to see things we have not seen in a very long time, especially the remaining mud bank that needs to go in order to have an entire basin of navigable water.

***Ice baby, ice*** - If it's going to be winter, let there be winter sailing. If it remains cold, I hope we will see ice boats on the bay. Come on down and check it out.

### ***As a reminder, our projects for 2026 are:***

- New pump-out dock
- Re-configured docks on A and B to accommodate Doug's new layout.
- Finish the new transient docks, adding water and power so they can be rented.
- Once the new construction is well underway next door, we will continue our work with the city and try to obtain



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grant money to continue developing the basin.

### ***From the dockmaster:***

***In-water winter storage-*** We had some boats sit in the mud during this last round of low water. The deicers did a good job of keeping the ice clear through it all.

### ***2026 dock contracts were emailed out on Oct. 17.***

We had some incorrect invoices go out early and I have sent notices of short payments to those that paid on them. I'm maintaining the 5% discount for those short payments. Email me if you have any questions.

***Contract and insurance forms*** - Again, please note! Since this is the first year we are requiring signed contracts and proof of insurance, this bears repeating: Contract and Insurance forms are required for winter and spring dockage. Many members are Dead Last when it comes to sending in their filled out contracts and proof of insurance forms. This year, we require those forms to be received by the Sadler Board prior to bringing your boat into the marina. There will be a penalty for not complying. This helps protect the club from difficult situations and gives contact information for emergencies. Requirements and penalties are outlined in the contract form.

***Your boat plans*** - If your Santa brought you a new boat, Congratulations! If you are considering purchasing a new boat or selling your old one, let us know so we can anticipate your dockage requirements for next season. Just like on the starting line, we can't anticipate everyone's actions, so giving us a heads up would be appreciated.

***Dock availability*** - We currently have all sizes of slips available for rent in 2026 except for 45'. Spread the word about how great SSC is to help fill those empty docks. The waiting list has been fulfilled for this season so it's now first come, first served. If you want to change the slip you're in, contact me!

***Please send emails*** to Doug at: [firefotodk@gmail.com](mailto:firefotodk@gmail.com)



Strong westerly winds and low pressure caused extremely low water in the basin December.

### **Sandusky Junior Sailors, Inc..... Suzanne Hartley and Michelle Gilboy**

***Registration for 2026 Learn to Sail is open*** It makes a great holiday gift for everyone. "Truly the gift that keeps on giving!"

### **Cruising Fleet..... RC Robbie Stone**

***One of the ways I think we get families sailing*** is a strong cruising fleet. Since sailors have always outnumbered racers, I believe more sailors equals more racers, which is good for SSC.

I am taking on the role of interim Cruising Fleet Captain. Given the Rear Commodore's responsibilities, I cannot maintain this beyond the spring. I am counting on someone to step up and take it over. For now, I am bringing together current and prospective members who have been a part of, or would like to be part of, the 2026 Cruising Fleet with the January objective of brainstorming ideas for the 2026 season. The kick-off meeting will be an online call Thursday, Jan. 15 at 7:00pm. We will publish the link on the club Calendar, or email me for a direct invite. Email [rob@robstone.me](mailto:rob@robstone.me)

***Leamington Trip*** - Sheryl Hoffman is already at work planning our annual Leamington Trip in June. Kitty and I went for the first time last year, and we enjoyed the experience so much that we can't imagine not doing it every year!

***Potential spoiler:*** You need a passport. If you don't have one, now is a good time to apply. I look forward to adding a few more Cruising events to our 2026 calendar. Please consider joining us on the 15th to discuss 2026 events.

### **Ice Boat Fleet ..... Dennis Butts**

Sandusky Sailing Club / Sandusky Ice Yacht Club will be hosting a Friday Night Feed Friday Jan. 16 at 6 pm. Pizza by the slice and Dairy Bar will be available. This is a fundraiser for defraying costs associated with the Iceboat Ramp.

Come on down and join the fun and if you want sign up for a Winter Iceboat Membership.

### **Yearbook..... .....Kathy Knox**

We are working on the 2026 edition now and looking for ads. If you have a business or know someone who does and is interested in advertising in SSC's 2026 yearbook, contact Kathy Knox [kknox44@gmail.com](mailto:kknox44@gmail.com) for rates. Or if you would like to be a patron, check the patron box on your membership application and add \$5 to your dues.

## Sailing stuff for sale

**Two Opti's for sale.** Bought them from the club a decade ago when the old boats were being cleared out of the SSC boat barn to make room for new ones. They're old boats but in sail-ready condition. All new running rigging. Contact Jon Muzilla at 216-650-7148.

**26 foot Grampian sailboat:** Good starter boat! 3 sails, roller furling, spinnaker, 9.8 Evinrude outboard motor, radio, Porta Potty, fully equipped, cradle. Good shape. Asking \$4,000/negotiable. Contact: Douglas F. Foss 440-292-5070 text: Grampian sailboat.

**1989 Capital Yachts "Neptune 24"** Sloop Rig Cruiser with Trailer. Well maintained, with high quality rigging, and reconditioned sails. Shallow draft (2ft.) ballasted shoal keel with retractable wing keel (3.5 ft. down). Three Sails - Mainsail, 130% Jibsail, and Roller Furlled 185% Genoa sail. Digital Depth Finder, Digital Knot Meter, VHF Radio, and Garmin GPS. 8 HP, Johnson Sail Master. Outboard Motor - 6 gallon fuel tank. Asking \$7,900, currently located on Catawba Island. CONTACT: Geoff Mendenhall at 419-341-5699, Email: [geoff@nikegeoff.com](mailto:geoff@nikegeoff.com)

**Paddle boards and inflatable docks** for sale. Contact Larry Knauer at [ldknauer@gmail.com](mailto:ldknauer@gmail.com) for more info.

**Harken MK IV unit 1 furler** for sale. Brand new. Priced to sell! Brad Balmert at [bradb1384@yahoo.com](mailto:bradb1384@yahoo.com) or 440-670-5065

**Interlake with trailer** - Two sets of sails. For info contact Richard Byrd at 216-533-6209 or [alphabyrd@gmail.com](mailto:alphabyrd@gmail.com)

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**Ariel - 1972 CAL 2-29 Sailboat** for sale. Great day sailor. Has been out in 35-40mph blows. Solid boat. 2-29 was an upgrade for the cruiser racer set. Wheel steering. New rudder. Converted to all electric motor. It's great for instant reverse and instant power forward. Proven over the last 8 years. Batteries replaced last year. Four-year-old Bimini, replaced the plastic material with umbrella. New Main. Older genoa 155 on new Harken roller furling. Self Tailing winches. All lines run to the cockpit. Good for single handed sailing. Asking \$5,000. Call Randy Ramhoff @ 419-656-1908, [R.Ramjet@gmail.com](mailto:R.Ramjet@gmail.com)

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### 2026 SSC BRIDGE

Commodore: Tim Willford  
Vice Commodore: Tim Ujvari  
Rear Commodore: Robbie Stone  
Immediate Past Commodore:  
John Giordano

### 2026 SSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bryan Burgess, Bob Durkin,  
Mark Hutchinson, Kathy Knox,  
Dave Kocias, Will Petersilge

### SADLER BASIN COMMITTEE

PC Bryan Huntley - President,  
PC Dean Riedy, PC Bruce Roberts,  
Dave Caracci, PC Bill Semans  
VC Tim Ujvari - SSC rep.  
Dockage: Doug Klein