

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

OCTOBER, 2026



President's Message From Robin Shell

Fall is here, and Gauley season is in full swing! It has been great seeing so many of our members getting out on the water, and we've already had a lot of personal first descents (PFDs) this season. Just as exciting has been seeing so many experienced boaters stepping up to help with those trips. Congratulations to everyone who has reached a new milestone, and a huge thank-you to everyone who has volunteered their time and experience to help make those descents happen safely.

Our next big adventure is the **Lower Gauley/New River Fall Colors Trip**, organized by Seth Anderson and Harlie Custer.

The Lower Gauley is a 14-mile Class III-IV river, and paddlers should have a reliable roll and be comfortable and confident on the Lower Yough. We would like to keep the number of personal first descents to four, so if this will be your PFD, please PM Seth or Harlie as soon as possible. This is a long day on the river, so be sure to pack a lunch. Since this is an early October trip, come prepared for cold weather and cold water. Safety boat volunteers will be greatly appreciated!

Camping and the group fire will be at **Ray's Campground**. Drop-in field camping is \$11 per person per night, and there are a limited number of cabins, electric sites, and tent sites available for reservation. If you're interested in running the **Class II/III Upper New on Saturday**, please contact Jacki Zevenbergen. Trip times are still TBD.

For complete trip information, check out the **Lower Gauley Fall Colors Trip** event page.

We also want to recognize everyone who made the **Ladies of Whitewater Weekend** such a huge success. Congratulations to everyone who attended and thank you to all those who put in the time and effort to lead and organize the event. It's great to see our club and our sister clubs continuing to create opportunities for paddlers of all backgrounds and experience levels.

Our October club meeting will be October 22 at the Akron North Hill Branch Library. Doors open at 5:30 PM, and the meeting starts at 6:00 PM. This will be an especially important meeting because we will be voting on the club budget and electing new officers. The positions up for election are **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board position.**

I encourage everyone to come to the meeting and take part in deciding the future of our club. Your participation matters whether you are interested in running for office, voting, volunteering, or simply sharing your ideas. Please bring a refreshment to share as well!

We also have **many volunteer positions available**. A club like ours depends on members who are willing to lend a hand, and there are plenty of ways to get involved both on and off the water. If you've been thinking about becoming more active in the club, now is a great time to jump in.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make the Keel-Haulers Club such a welcoming, active, and supportive paddling community. I hope to see many of you on the Lower Gauley, around the campfire, and at the October meeting.

See you on the river! Robin Shell, President



Veep's Views By Jacki Zevenbergen

It's that time of year when the release season is almost over but the natural flow rivers start getting water again. I hope everyone has their cool weather gear ready to go.

I want to thank everyone who stepped up to organize trips and events in 2026 for their service to the club. Although many of those people have a long history of doing so, there were some new faces in the organizer and volunteer line up.

If you didn't get a chance to organize a scheduled trip in 2026, I hope you will consider doing so at least once in 2027. If more members make the commitment to at least 1 day we can have a great schedule.

Speaking of giving to the club, please pay your \$20 annual dues if you haven't already. We use that money to support conservation and access efforts, pay for social events and to subsidize a variety of training opportunities.

This year our holiday party will be held on Saturday, November 21st at the Boston Township Hall near Lock 29 in Peninsula. It's a nice venue that is convenient to major highways and the Ohio turnpike.

I hope to see everyone at the Fall Colors event in WV. Please contact me via email, text or messenger if you want to join me for a trip down the Upper New River on October 10th. This is the easier section of the New River.

This will be my last article as your Vice President. I'll be turning things over to someone new after the election so I can focus on personal matters. Please consider running for office. There are several positions up for election.

Enjoy the wet, cool weather of fall! I hope to see you all on the rivers!

Jacki Z.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2026
From Michael Duvall**

Checking \$12,984.62

**Keel-hauler 2026 Budget to Actuals
as well as the proposed 2026-2027 for vote
From Michael Duvall**

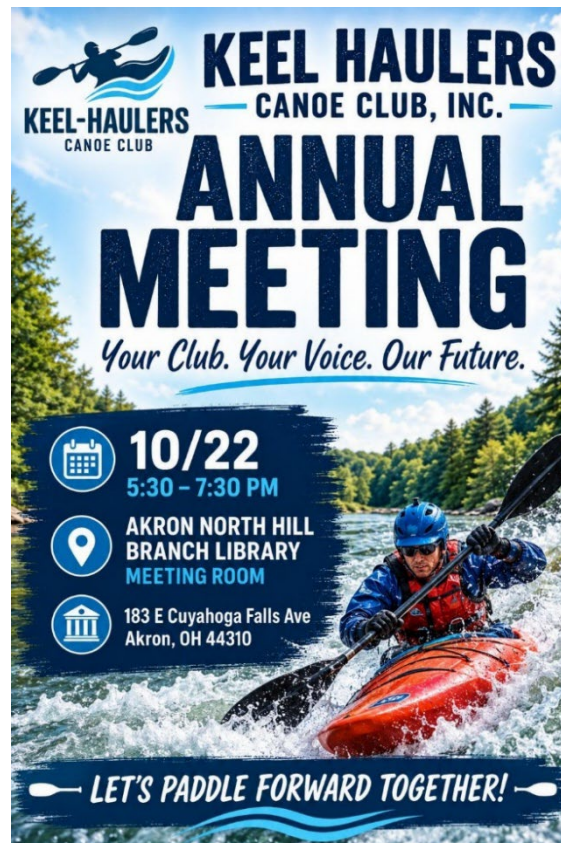
The 2026 Budget, 2026 Actuals and the proposed 2027 Budget. This is provided for discussion and approval at the October meeting.

	2026 Budget	25-26 Actuals	Proposed 2026-2027 Budget
ASSETS			
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$6,676.31	\$6,676.31	\$12,927.82
CD (2) balance at start of FY	\$0.00		\$0.00
INCOME category			
Slip Fest	??	\$11,138.52	\$8,000.00
Dues (less fees) based on 8/25/2025 -8/25/2026	\$5,800.00	\$4,191.44	\$4,000.00
Pool Session (less fees) (Lake Meyers) 8x8 x \$13.81		\$941.71	\$960.00
Raffles (Not Slip Fest)	\$30.00	\$200.00	\$50.00
TeeSpring, Inc.	\$50.00		\$0.00
Conservation	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
Pool Sessions (less fees) (CFalls)		\$159.86	\$0.00
SWR April (less fees)		\$0.00	\$5,880.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$16,661.53	\$18,890.00
TOTAL ASSETS (Beginning balance + income)	\$12,556.31	\$23,337.84	\$31,817.82
LIABILITIES			
EXPENSE category			
President discretion			\$100.00

Conservation Donations/Access Donations*	\$3,600.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,550.00
Slip fest expenses	\$3,000.00	\$5,296.47	\$6,000.00
Education/Training/Outreach	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Pool Sessions (Lake Meyers)		\$1,040.00	\$960.00
Pool Sessions (CFalls)	\$260.00	\$260.00	\$0.00
Meeting space (Holiday, 3 pavilions)	\$200.00	\$310.00	\$550.00
Refreshments	\$600.00	\$185.25	\$600.00
Internet Domain	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00
Webpage Development	\$450.00	\$464.00	\$499.00
Marketing	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$500.00
Insurance	\$950.00	\$862.50	\$1,000.00
Postage and Supply	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Internet Access			\$0.00
Storage box for goal nets (one time)		\$77.87	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$10,290.00	\$10,976.09	\$13,889.00
Ending balance (Beginning + income - liabilities)	\$2,266.31	\$12,361.75	\$17,928.82
DONATIONS breakdown:	2026 Budget	2026 Actual	2027 Budget
Special Donation/Benscreek-Stonycreek *	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$600.00
Rose Point*	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Friends of the Cheat*	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Friends of the Crooked River	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
American Rivers	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
River Network	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Nature Conservancy	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Portage Park Dist.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
American Whitewater	\$800.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Friends of the New River Gorge	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Kent Tannery Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Save Slippery Rock Defense Fund (SSRC)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional Conservation			\$300.00
TOTAL	\$3,600.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,550.00

2026 SLIPFEST EXPENSES			
PA Park		\$300.00	
PA Park		\$100.00	
Insurance		\$250.00	
Shirts		\$2,428.56	
Sticker		\$324.00	
Cheeseman Farms		\$400.00	
Merchandise		\$243.36	
Jackson Antix3		\$1,155.60	
TOTAL		\$5,201.52	

**Upcoming Keel-hauler Meeting
October 22, 2026**



Come and vote for your future of the club. Bring a refreshment to share. Vote for: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 1 Board Trustee Position. MANY other positions available.
Robin Shell, President, 216-482-6100.

Fall Colors Trip Saturday, October 10th

This year, the annual Fall Colors paddle will take place on the Lower Gauley and Upper New! Harlie Custer (harliedion@gmail.com) and Seth Anderson are organizing the event. If you are interested in running the Lower Gauley, please contact Seth who will be the trip leader on Saturday, 10/10. Jacki Zevenbergen is leading the Upper New paddle on the same day. Please reach out directly to her if you would like to join that group.

****We'd like to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable time on the river, so we are limiting the number of first-time paddlers on the LG to 4, unless you have your own crew and leader. So, if this will be your PFD on the LG, contact us ASAP.****

Camping will be at Ray's Campground. You can drop in or make reservations at: <https://www.rayscampground.com>. We are not planning a group potluck since the LG tends to be a longer day on the river, but we'd love everyone to join us for a group hang around the campfire on Saturday night. We look forward to paddling together in WV amongst the beautiful fall foliage. Please reach out to me, Seth or Jacki if you are planning on joining us!

Thanks!
Harlie



The poster features a central image of three people kayaking down a river with vibrant autumn foliage on the banks. At the top left is the logo for the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club, Inc., which includes a silhouette of a person in a canoe. The title 'Fall Colors Trip' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'OCTOBER 9-11' below it in a red banner. The organizers are listed as Harlie Custer & Seth Anderson. Two sections describe the trips: 'Lower Gauley Saturday with Seth' and 'Upper New Saturday'. The camping section mentions Ray's Campground with its address and phone number, and notes a drop-in fee of \$11/night. A final note states that dinner is on your own but a group campfire will be provided. The bottom of the poster is decorated with a silhouette of a forest.

**KEEL-HAULERS
CANOE CLUB, INC.**

Fall Colors Trip

OCTOBER 9-11

Trip Organizers: Harlie Custer & Seth Anderson

Lower Gauley Saturday with Seth
If you would like to run the Lower Gauley Saturday with Seth, please reach out to him.
(Mandatory for a PDF)

Upper New Saturday
If you would like to run the Upper New Saturday, please reach out to Jacki Zevenbergen.

Camping & Group Fire
Ray's Campground
1199 Sunday Rd, Hico, WV 25854
(304) 658-4386

Drop in field camping is \$11/night.
There are limited cabins, electric and tent sites which can be reserved.

Dinner is on your own, but we will have a group campfire.

**Students on the Tusc
Article by Mark Spang
Photos from Tim Eberling**



Trees line a scenic section of the Tuscarawas River south of Canal Fulton, sandwiched between the Olde Muskingum Trail and the Towpath Trail, which a paddler could imagine is little changed from when it was a major thoroughfare for native Americans in their canoes a few hundred years ago.

On a damp Sunday, Sept. 20, the second last day of summer, seven undergraduate and one graduate student from Malone University in Canton, along with their faculty adviser and Keel-hauler Club volunteers launched from the Canal Fulton Canoe Livery for a six-mile float on that unspoiled section of river.

The idea for the trip hatched back in May, when Malone associate professor Brandi Noll, faculty adviser for the Outdoor Adventure Club, visited the Keel-hauler's tent at the Cuyahoga Falls Adventure Festival and asked KH recreational kayak leader Tim Eberling if the club could help put together a paddling trip for the students. Tim threw his support behind the idea and began borrowing boats, paddles and PFDs from club members, enlisting volunteer leaders, and working with Canal Fulton Livery owners Don Baker and Paulette Daniels to set up the event and arrange the shuttle.

A gentle rain through the night and the morning let up before launch time but kept the river moving. Thankfully, lightning from the previous day had ceased as well. If a storm had returned or anyone became overly tired, the Livery offered the option of taking out after three miles, but everyone opted for the six-mile trip.

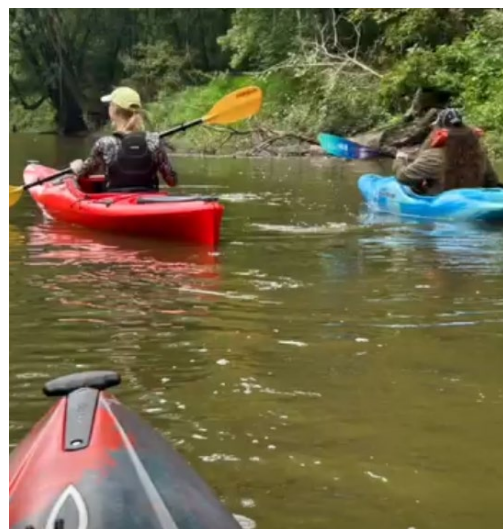
Tim, Bill Hoversten, Mark Spang and Josh Adam helped get boats to the water, talk about group safety and get students fitted with PFDs and boat foot pegs. Although most students had paddled before this

trip, some got to experience new types of kayaks. They had a choice of creeker whitewater boats, smaller plastic sea kayaks and or fishing kayaks. Students pondered whether they wanted to spin, be fast and straight or sit high in the fisherman's throne as they made their selections.

After passing the Canoe Livery's riverside camp sites, the trip down river was a relaxing swim-free float, maneuvering around some downed trees. The well-used section of river was free of any river-wide strainers, and our trip came a week after a river cleanup so there was little litter. A few herons squawked and flew downriver ahead of us.

The goal of Outdoor Adventure Club is to promote getting off electronic devices and into the outdoors, Brandi Noll said. Throughout the academic year students are offered the chance to participate in a variety of activities including hiking, paddling, camping, indoor and outdoor rock climbing, skiing, sled riding and snowshoeing. Most events are done locally, but some students get to participate in activities out of our area. Eight students travelled to Utah with Brandi last spring to explore the outdoors and attend a national conference.

Brandi credited the Keel-haulers for contributing to the successful event: "Thanks to the group for being willing to lend boats, give instruction and time to connect and encourage these young adults!"



Mountain Watershed Event October 14, 2026



It's time for our annual Member Appreciation Party - and we would love to see you there!

Join MWA staff and our volunteer Board of Directors for a festive evening to celebrate our accomplishments, learn about upcoming projects, meet our new staff members, and elect the 2027 Board of Directors.

Free for current members of MWA!

Join us for the party! MWA will provide: Main courses for a lovely harvest meal, Live music, Non-alcoholic beverages, first chance to grab our new merchandise, Cash bar, with beer from Cinderlands Brewing and wine from Vin de Matrix.

Please feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to add to the potluck. The Member Appreciation Party is a casual event – no need to dress fancy.

Who is a member? Our membership definition is quite broad. Donors, volunteers, and engaged community members all count as members of MWA. Even simple actions, such as signing an MWA petition or sharing information about our work, qualifies you as a member. If you're unsure about your status, you can contact sarahrowe@mtwatershed.com. Or feel free to [donate](#) or [volunteer](#) today!

Also coming up:

Join MWA staff and our volunteer Board of Directors for a festive evening to celebrate our accomplishments, learn about upcoming projects, meet our new staff members, and elect the 2027 Board of Directors. Free for current members of MWA!

[Creepy, Crawly Trick-or-Treat](#)

October 17, 5 pm - 8 pm, Camp Christian

All ages are invited to dress up in costume and hike around the woods at Camp Christian as they encounter some mystery guests with stories to tell and candy to share. Please bring your own trick or treat bag!

[Yough Defense Party](#)

November 19, Falls City Pub, Ohiopyle PA

The annual Yough Defense Party is a celebration of our beloved Youghiogheny River watershed. As Mountain Watershed Association's largest annual fundraiser, the party helps advance and sustain critical projects in our watershed.

Upcoming Roll Sessions

[Roll Sessions, Clinics, and Practice — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)



UPDATED 9/22/26

POOL SESSIONS
MEYERS LAKE YMCA
1333 North Park Ave NW
Canton, OH 44708

Sundays, 9-11am

November 8, 22
December 13, 27
January 10, 24
February 14, 28
March 14, 28

Equipment and Logistics:

All incoming kayaks must be very clean. Please remove airbags or anything else that may hold debris when cleaning the boat. We reserve the right to turn a dirty kayak away. We will enter via the maintenance area.

Need Equipment?

The club MAY have some equipment and can help outfit anyone who needs gear, but you must ask in advance. (Use the note option when registering.)

Need Help?

Are you interested in learning basic kayaking skills? The club will have a presence at every session and will be more than happy to work with any paddler who requests help.



Price:

The cost for each pool session is

\$12 per person (members)

\$15 per person (non-members)

Family is welcome to come watch for free if they are not getting in the pool





UPDATED 9/2/26

Thursday, 7pm to 9pm

POOL SESSIONS
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
 1550 Ted Boyd Dr., Kent, OH

September 10
 October 22
 November 19
 December 3

Equipment and Logistics:

New kayakers can come learn kayaking skills. Participants may bring their own boats via the loading dock stairs and back entrance as long as the boats are FULLY CLEANED before entering the pool. If you don't own a boat, one can be provided for you to use. Contact Kennedy at actrips@kent.edu with any questions. Pre-registration IS REQUIRED by the Wednesday before each program. Difficulty: Level 1. No experience necessary, mild physical exertion.

Price:

The cost for each pool session is \$7 per person

For more information, Phone: 330-672-4732 rcowell@kent.edu

<https://tinyurl.com/KentState2026>



UPDATED
 8/18/26



POOL SESSIONS
AKRON UNIVERSITY
 Ocasek Natatorium
 382 Carroll Street, Akron

Tuesdays, 8-10pm

September 22, 29
 October 6, 13, 20, 27
 November 3, 10, 17
 December 1

Equipment and Logistics:

- *Boats, PFDs (life jackets) and paddles are provided as needed.
- *Personal kayaks are permitted so long as they are clean and free of debris. Boats may be transported through the side entrance of the ONAT pool (**door #14**). Do not prop open doors.
- *Participants may arrive by 7:45 but may not be on the water before 8pm.
- *All participants must be out of the ONAT facility by 10pm. This means planning ahead to exit the water as early as necessary to ensure you are out of the building on time, including kayak transport and locker room use.

Need help?

The club will be more than happy to work with any paddler who requests help. The Keel Haulers club has a roll instructor that will work with students on learning the kayak roll if you are interested. With this service you must email us at clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com and we will work to get him there to work with you. If you take advantage of this service, we request that you are or become a Keel Hauler club member.

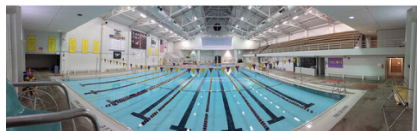
Registration:

Punch Passes are required:
<https://www.uakron.edu/rec/adventure/open-kayaking>



Upon arrival every participant must sign in with our staff and receive a wrist band to wear for the duration of the session. Staff are available in the leisure pool area and ONAT pool deck for sign-in





UPDATED 8/5/25

Saturdays, 3pm to 5pm

POOL SESSIONS
LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
14100 Franklin Blvd, Lakewood

December 6
January 3
January 10
February 21
February 28

Equipment and Logistics:

Kayakers cannot enter the building until 2:50 PM. All participants must shower and be completely out of the building by 5:15pm. All kayaks and gear must be completely clean, inside & out. Please remember helmets are required. Please use Door #15.

Price:

This pool is limited to 20 kayaks. The cost for each pool session is \$8 (pre-registered), \$10 (exact change) at the door. recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org

For more information, Phone: (216) 529-4081 recreation@lakewoodcityschools.org



Keel-hauler Trip Schedule as of October 1, 2026
2026 trip/release/event schedule as of 08/24/2026 - Google Sheets

Please review this proposed schedule and reach out to me or Cliff to volunteer to organize at least 1 trip during 2026. We could especially use organizers for pre-planned, weekend Slip, LOYO and Stony trips. In addition to myself and Cliff, there are plenty of members who will mentor you through the trip organizer process if you are new to organizing. Please pay it forward to the club for the support you received as a new boater or the subsidized training you received from the club.

Jacki vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com or **Cliff** cwire64@sbcglobal.net

Purple = release, Red = event, Black = Trip

Contact Info - use FB messenger unless noted otherwise. Contact Jacki at vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com if organizer does not respond to messenger.

October		Upper Yough (first 2 Fri and Monday plus first saturday)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
October	2-5	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	2-5	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October	3,4,17,18	Stony Release	21	
October		Slip	13-21	
October	22	Annual Election		
October	10,11	Fall Colors Trip - WV (Gauley, NRG, Upper New)		Harlie and Seth
October	10,11	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level

October	10,11	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level
October	12	Holiday Paddle		
October		LOYO	23	
October		Middle Yough	12	
October	17,18?	Upper New		
October	18	New River Gorge - Bridge Day	26	No Club Trip
October	17,18	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	17,18	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October		Slip	13-21	
November	7,8	Tohican Release		Doug Waltman with Lehigh Club
November		LOYO	23	
November		Slip	13-21	
November	21	Holiday Party		

October Trips and Events

Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

2 OCT, FRI
Gauley Release (Day 1/4)

3 OCT, SAT
Gauley Release (Day 2/4)
Stony Release (Day 1/2)

4 OCT, SUN
Gauley Release (Day 3/4)
Stony Release (Day 2/2)

5 OCT, MON
Gauley Release (Day 4/4)

6 OCT, TUE
8 – 10pm University of Akron Pool Sessions, Ocasek Natatorium

10 OCT, SAT
Fall Colors WV (Day 1/2)
ACE Adventure Resort | Whitewater Rafting West Virginia, 1 Concho Road, Oak Hill, WV 25901, USA
Gauley Release (Day 1/2)

11 OCT, SUN
Fall Colors WV (Day 2/2)
ACE Adventure Resort | Whitewater Rafting West Virginia, 1 Concho Road, Oak Hill, WV 25901, USA
Gauley Release (Day 2/2)

13 OCT, TUE
8 – 10pm University of Akron Pool Sessions, Ocasek Natatorium

17 OCT, SAT
Gauley Release (Day 1/2)
Stony Release (Day 1/2)
New River Gorge Bridge Day

18 OCT, SUN
Gauley Release (Day 2/2)
Stony Release (Day 2/2)

20 OCT, TUE
7:30 – 8:30pm Open Paddle at CSU, Robert F. Busbey Natatorium
8 – 10pm University of Akron Pool Sessions, Ocasek Natatorium

22 OCT, THU
5:30 – 7:30pm, Annual Meeting, North Hill Branch Library, 7 – 9pm
Kent State Pool Session, Kent Roosevelt Natatorium

26 OCT, MON
Witches & Warlocks paddle, Trip organizer=Meesh Crum, <https://fb.me/e/6CS3MMTiW>

27 OCT, TUE
8 – 10pm University of Akron Pool Sessions, Ocasek Natatorium

2025-2026 Club Officers

President:	Robin Shell	Clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com
VP:	Jacki Zevenbergen	VPkeelhaulers@gmail.com
Secretary:	Meesh Crum	
Treasurer:	Michael Duvall	

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check the website for the next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. Membership Chairman: Rachel Faber, membershipkeelhauler@gmail.com
New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, mail to the Treasurer: Keel-hauler Canoe Club, 2215 Atkins Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damage resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.com

Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or sending a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the November 2026 issue of the newsletter is 10/23/2026. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Ka-news

October 2026

Kelly Miller, Editor

