

# Keel-hauler's Ka-news



**NOVEMBER, 2026**



## President's Message From Robin Shell

Happy post fall colors trip my fellow kayakers.

This will be my last newsletter update to you as your President. I'm not going anywhere, but I won't be the head honcho anymore. Fall colors trip saw us moving South (is it South?) to West Virginia. We had PFDs on the Lower Gauley, the Upper New and the Lower New (the Gorge). We had some swims and some laughs and most of the rain was during dinner or throughout the night. The camaraderie was top notch!

We are gearing up for winter paddling - some of the best water out there. Make sure your gaskets are all in line and make sure you bring your dry suit with you (I'm not mentioning any names, Brogan).

The River People app is my favorite kayak app out there. I will not stop talking about it. If you haven't downloaded it yet - what are you waiting for?

It has been such an honor to represent the club, and it was such a great learning experience. We have made some new events traditions on our calendar and have welcomed so many new faces. Slip Fest has grown. The club trips have been venturing beyond the Loyo. We have made donations to new access points. We have been very active in our own community.

I cannot thank my fellow executive and board members enough and ALL the volunteers. If I were to name them all, I think I would name nearly every member of the club. So, THANK YOU to EVERYONE!!!!

I cannot wait to see you all on the river!

Robin

**A Huge Thank you!  
From Robin Shell**

Thank you to our outgoing Board. We appreciate all you have done for the club.

President - Robin Shell  
Vice President - Jacki Zevenbergen  
Secretary - Meesh Crum  
Treasurer - Michael Duvall  
Trustee - Kelly Miller  
Trustee - Seth Anderson  
Trustee - Brian Smart

We welcome in our new Board:

President - Domenic Bentz  
Vice President - Seth Anderson  
Secretary - Robin Shell  
Treasurer - Meesh Crum  
Trustee, 2025-2027 - Robert Koenig (Finishing Seth Anderson's term)  
Trustee, 2026-2028 - Brian Smart  
Trustee, 2027-2029 - Micah Vertal

**Annual Keel-hauler Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2026  
From Meesh Crum**



**Keel-Haulers Canoe Club  
October Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, October 27, 2026  
Firestone Park Library  
1463 Holly Avenue  
Akron, OH 44301

Attendance:

In person: Robin Shell, Michael Duvall, Meesh Crum, Brain Smart, Xavier Rivera, Kristen Walters-Maag, Kevin Mewhiney, Micah Vertal, Bob Koenig, Anna Sierra  
Virtual: Linda Kuhajda, Domenic Bentz, Seth Anderson

6:13 PM - Call to Order, President Robin Shell

1. Welcome and overview

2. Committees:

a. Conservation Chair Xavier Rivera

- i. 2026 Summary - Three total cleanups with one per month May to July; estimated several hundred pounds of trash removed from our local river
- ii. 2027 Goals
  - 1. 1 cleanup per month during no-wetsuit season;
  - 2. Track volunteer hours both with club-organized events and ones where members participate with outside organizations.

b. Membership - Robin on behalf of Rachel Faber - 263 paid members; we will need more online

- i. Dom - can you merge membership and website together committees;  
Robin - this is a decision for the next president

c. Budget: Michael DuVall

- i. Beginning of the year: \$6,600 year
- ii. End: \$13,292.80
  - 1. Slip Fest was our primary income
  - 2. Membership renewals increased
  - 3. We reduced donations for 2026 to ensure we had enough income, and proposed expenses represent a return to normal.
  - 4. Budget Discussion:
    - a. Robin - Proposed adding a donation to Open Trail Collective for a one-day festival for \$40 for a booth at this festival. After some discussion, we decided this could be met with the currently allocated \$1,000 under Education/Training and Outreach line item rather than another conservation donation. This proposal was tabled.
    - b. Xavier - Proposed the Conservancy for CVNP - Friends of Cuyahoga; It was discussed that in previous years we decided that while we support this organization, they don't need our money, but can be looked into. Noted that we have \$300 option within the current budget that could be allocated for this, should there be a need and was not pursued at this time.
    - c. Michael - Rose Point - While they expressed gratitude, they said improvements to put in were for their own campers. There was some discussion regarding this being one of the most frequently used put-ins for our club, and that we should follow up with owners to see if they want the donation. Seth will reach out to Rose Point for additional information. Robin will look at GIS to see who owns Harris Bridge property to see if it could be appropriate to donate there for future years for take out improvements. All present voted 12:1 to increase spending to a more general line item of "Slip" (potentially split between Rose Point and Harris) by

another \$100. However, this vote was later rescinded during future budget discussions and the total amount allocated remains the same as proposed.

iii. Proposed expenses for 2027: \$13,989.00 (with Slip increase of \$100)

iv. Projected income for 2027: \$18,890

1. Balancing the Budget - Meesh - The proposed budget currently has nearly \$700 expenses (\$696.20) exceeding current balance which is not sustainable, and was a source of contention resulting in budget adjustments in 2026. We are set to make the same mistake again.

a. Michael - Historically, we were advancing programs and pools we didn't get money from

b. Group discussion on other areas to cut:

i. Refreshments reduced from \$600 to \$400 (saves \$200);

ii. Additional conservation - take down to \$150 from \$300

iii. Remove the \$100 addition to Slip that was just proposed

iv. Brian - Proposes making a budget the week after Slip Fest and spending all money then. Robin reminded us that our by-laws make this impossible.

It was also noted that spending all money immediately after Slip Fest would not leave money to allocate to the following year's festival.

c. The proposed budget changes result in a remaining discrepancy between proposed expenditures and current balance of -\$246.20. Approved 12:1.

d. Elections:

i. President: Domenic Bentz; unanimous approval

ii. VP - Seth Anderson; unanimous approval

iii. Secretary - Robin Shell; unanimous approval

iv. Treasurer - Meesh Crum; 12 in favor 1 against

v. Board: Micah Vertal - 3-year term for Kelly; unanimous approval

vi. Board: Bob Koenig - Finish Seth's term for 1 year; unanimous approval

3. Board will need to sit down to fill empty positions, including training. Reach out to Domenic if you would like to volunteer.

6:51 PM - Meeting adjourned.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report  
October 31, 2026  
From Michael Duvall**

Checking \$13,520.58

**Upcoming Keel-hauler Holiday Party!  
Saturday, November 21st**

The 2026 Keel-Haulers holiday party will be held on Saturday, November 21st at the Boston Township Hall, 1775 Main St, Peninsula, OH 44264.

The party will start at 6pm. We have the large room until midnight.

Alcohol IS allowed.

Bring an appetizer, side or dessert to share. I'm bringing a turkey.

Please bring your family!

This is on the corner of Rt 303 and Riverview Road. There is plenty of free parking at the building. This location is easy to access from the Ohio Turnpike, Route 8, I-271 and I-77.

Jacki Z

**Fall Colors Upper New Trip  
Saturday, October 10th**

The upper New River trip at the Fall Colors event was really fun. This section is nice for newer paddlers and the weather was nicer than expected. It was nice to welcome our new member Christa Shakedown and I appreciated the support from Virginia N Darpiem and Penelope Ayoub. Sebastian, Hildi and Lucy were great additions to our group. We all enjoyed the Table Smokehouse in Mount Hope for our after-paddle lunch.

Jacki Z



## Mountain Watershed Yough Defense Party November 19, 2026

### [Yough Defense Party – Mountain Watershed Association](#)

November 19, 4pm-11pm, 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](mailto: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](mailto:rcowell@kent.edu)

<https://tinyurl.com/KentState2026>



UPDATED  
 8/18/26



**POOL SESSIONS**  
**AKRON UNIVERSITY**  
 Ocusek 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](mailto: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.

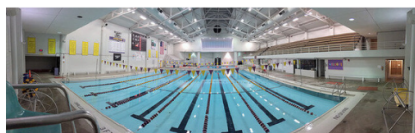
**Registration:**

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](https://recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org)

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



**Keel-hauler Trip Schedule as of October 24, 2026**  
[2026 trip/release/event schedule as of 10/24/2026 - 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](mailto:vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com) or **Cliff** [cwire64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwire64@sbcglobal.net)

Purple = release, Red = event, Black = Trip

Contact Info - use FB messenger unless noted otherwise. Contact Jacki at [vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com](mailto:vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com) if organizer does not respond to messenger.

| Contact Info - use FB messenger unless noted otherwise. Contact Jacki at <a href="mailto:vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com">vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com</a> if organizer does not respond to messenger. |         |                 |              |           |                  | Red = event  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| Month                                                                                                                                                                                     | Date(s) | event           | River Rating | Organizer | Purple = release | Black = trip |
| November                                                                                                                                                                                  | 7,8     | Tohican Release |              |           |                  |              |
| November                                                                                                                                                                                  |         | LOYO            | 23           |           |                  |              |
| November                                                                                                                                                                                  |         | Slip            | 13-21        |           |                  |              |
| November                                                                                                                                                                                  | 21      | Holiday Party   |              |           |                  |              |

## **2026-2027 Club Officers**

|                   |                      |                                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b> | <b>Domenic Bentz</b> | <b>Clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com</b> |
| <b>VP:</b>        | <b>Seth Anderson</b> | <b>VPkeelhaulers@gmail.com</b>        |
| <b>Secretary:</b> | <b>Robin Shell</b>   |                                       |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> | <b>Meesh Crum</b>    | <b>Treasurerkeelhaulers@gmail.com</b> |

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](mailto: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](http://www.keelhauler.com)

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**Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or sending a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **December 2026** issue of the newsletter is **11/23/2026**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com).**

**Keel-Hauler Ka-news**

**November 2026**

**Kelly Miller, Editor**

