AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB® OF DETROIT

General Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September11, 2025, 6:00 PM Windsor Yacht Club

Commander: Cdr. Wendy Caldwell, P	(586)212-7388	wendycaldwell@hotmail.com
Executive Officer:	Open	
Educational Officer: P/C Vince Cooley, JN	(313)320-3640	htvacyahoo.com
Asst. Ed. Officer: 1st/Lt Dick Keefer	(248)761-7529	dkeefer001@gmail.com
Administrative Officer	Open	
Secretary: Lt/C Joyce Strey, S	(313)407-1105	lejoystrey@comcast.net
Asst. Secretary	Open	
Treasurer: P/C Joseph Tatham, SN	(586)997-3618	commanderjosepht@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer P/C Daniel Bodnar, JN	(586)484-1444	danbford@yahoo.com
Chaplain: D/Lt Douglas R. Rocho, P	(586)306-1836	dougffhg@gmail.com

In Attendance: Commander Wendy Caldwell, P; LeRoy Strey, P; Lt/C Joyce Anne Strey, S; Lt Kurt Lyons, P; P/C Delphine Cooley, S; P/Stf/C Sally Lemus, P; P/C Joe Tatham, SN, Marge Tatham; P/C Vince Cooley, JN; Lavonia Criner (Grosse Pointe); Ken Owens, S (Grosse Pointe); P/C/C Joseph Gatfield, JN; Dennis Pierce; P/C Mitch Gawrysiak, JN; Cdr Peter Steeves (Windsor); and Lt. Michael Murphree, P.

Cdr Caldwell called the meeting to order at 7:37. Pledge. Quorum was present. Motion to accept the minutes from the June GMM was made by P/C Joseph Tatham and seconded by Lt Michael Murphree. Motion passed.

Commander's Report Commander Wendy Caldwell reported that our NomCom committee, P/C Dan Bodnar and P/C Delphine Cooley are looking for any members interested in serving on our Board to contact them as we need a slate to present to the membership for the October meeting. P/C/C Joe Gatfield then commented that as of the recent Governing Board any associate member can serve as any officer except Commander. Commander Caldwell then added that a squadron bylaw change would be necessary.
The D-9 conference hosted by Detroit will be held at DYC on Saturday, October 04. Members need to register for it. Lunch will be $25. P/C Delphine Cooley added that we need volunteers to help with check-in.
The BOD voted to donate $500., to what was Challenge the Wind, now known as Detroit Community Sailing Center. This program introduces youth to sailing.

Executive Officer's Report open

Administrative Officer's Report open

Educational Officer's Report P/C Vince Cooley reported that out of our two ABC classes with 22 students registered 17 took the exam. All 17 passed. In June National approved a new Marine Battery Seminar. Birmingham is presenting seminars instead of classes. Vince then said he would like to continue with the ABC class and maybe try seminars, too.

Treasurer's Report P/C Joe Tatham reported that our accounts are in good shape. Net receipts from our two poker events are $8362. Total cash as of 9/8/25 is $86,783.62. Our budget for the year is $22,110. Total to date used is $19,404.19.

Secretary's Report No report.

Chaplain's Report P/C Doug Rocho was excused.

Board of Directors' Report No reports.

Committee Reports P/C Delphine Cooley began her report by thanking both Lt. John Nelson and Lt. Mike Murphree for all their help in planning for the Educational Cruise. We have committed to 50 passengers. We have one seat available. If you know of someone that would like to join us, the cost is $100. We have a guest speaker for the cruise. Detroit is covering the cost of the cruise for the speaker and his spouse.

Governing Board Reports Cdr reported on the recent National Governing Board meeting that was held in Grand Rapids. Under the Education Department, Advanced Marine Navigation Course has been updated and will be available in December. An improved Inland Boating Course will be launched in February. The USPS-ABC Course was approved by NASBLA and will now need to be approved by each state. Officer training will be available on-line September 17. The former Engine Repair Course will now be Propulsion Systems and will be taught in a module approach for inboard, outboard, or inboard-outboard engines so members can take the module they need. Ken Owens expressed his displeasure on the new Marine Navigation Course. He discussed the new class, the 100-question test, and how difficult it is to download the new software. There is no training manual for the program. You must find videos on You-Tube for the class.
Under the Safety Department it was noted that Marine liability insurance is improving. Detroit has its own policies. It was also noted that if you were 75 years or older, you need a doctor's note to do Vessel Exams. If you are 80 years or older you can be an assistant to another examiner. Change to these requirements is coming. The Century Award for 100 VSC's for one year will now be for a lifetime. Also the Millenial Award for 1000 VSC's in one year will now be awarded for a lifetime. National is discussing doing away with district and squadron VSC's to give more recognition to individuals. P/C/C Joe Gatfield feels that Squadrons should continue to be recognized in addition to individuals. Cdr Peter Steeves agreed and also commented on electronic flares saying they don't have the visibility of traditional ones. He discussed the importance of the dialog between the examiner and the boat owner for safety. Cdr Caldwell reported that the Coast Guard said that in 2024 there were 24,000 VSC's and that they need that number to double in the next 5 years as only 2% of boats are being checked. There are USPS 1006 examiners.
The Marketing Department had a budget of $35,000 for the Cooperative Advertising Reimbursement Program. 24 squadrons applied for reimbursement. Detroit was mentioned for our registered boater email campaign. Mike Murphree reported that this was not successful. P/C Delphine Cooley commented that she has used that email list to inform boaters of classes and other events.
P/C/C Joe Gatfield complimented D-9 and Detroit members for their efforts in making the GB a success. He also said he was honored to be the first Canadian to be in the Color Guard. He went on to explain how he put his uniform together. Cdr Caldwell went on to say that 4/5ths of the Color Guard was from D-9. She also said that P/C Rose Stano of Grosse Pointe did a terrific job of pulling it all together

New Business Cdr Caldwell reported on the upcoming D-9 Fall conference. She also said that the D-9 Council meeting was scheduled for September 11 in conflict with our meeting.

Unfinished Business Cdr Caldwell will be setting the dates for next year's Poker event on September 23rd at 10:00 am.

Good of the Squadron Check the District calendar for activities sponsored by other squadrons. Consider attending the Annual Meeting February 9-15 in Myrtle Beach, SC. All the rooms are ocean front suites. Breakfast is included.
She thanked Delphine for all the work she is doing for Detroit.
P/C Mitch Gawrysiak discussed the lack of support by law enforcement in getting help for clearing our waterways of debris like large logs. He called the Macomb Marine Division, the Coast Guard, the Corp of Army Engineers for help in removing a 25ft tree with no luck. He contacted St. Clair County for help where he learned that if he put a flag on that debris, he would be liable should a boater hit it. He further reported that the St. Clair Shores Coast Guard Station is now on a parttime schedule. We must now depend on either Sector Detroit or Port Huron for aid to Lake St. Clair. Mitch feels that we need to work cooperatively with Canada to rid Lake St. Clair of debris.

Next Meetings
GMM October 02 at DYC Mike Murphree will be our speaker discussing his recent cruise aboard the Lucks' boat.
BOD September 25 on Zoom

Meeting adjourned. 8:38

Lt/C Joyce Strey, S,
Secretary, ABC of Detroit