



Newsletter

American Sternwheel Association

P.O. Box 1482, Charleston, WV 25325 ~ americansternwheel.org

May 2025 – Volume 49 – Issue No. 3

The FRANKY D's 2025 Repair Trip

by Captain Jim Hysell

The FRANKY D was in need of some repairs to her hull, and that meant she would need to go upriver for a spell, so on Sunday, March 2nd, I left Gallipolis, accompanied by Captain Tom Faris (FARIS WHEEL) and Captain Butch Leport (LE'PORT EXPLORER). We were headed to Mile Marker 81.3 – Rayland Marina – to begin our work.

First off, let me tell you how the morning started with none other than a bacon incident ... that's right, BACON. Captain Tom was in the kitchen cooking a few slices and turned for a sip of coffee, when low and behold, the pan ended up topsy-turvy on the floor! Slipped right off the stove, it did; so, the FRANKY D needs to get some sideboards on order for future trips. Captain Tom *did* cook some new bacon straightaway, however after the whole "upside down on the floor" catastrophe, it didn't even cross his mind to serve any of his second batch to the crew! Well, maybe we'll get a slice or two on the next trip.



Capt. Jim Hysell and Capt. Jarrod Burden get the FRANKY D secured to a trailer in the water for pullout and repairs.

Now as all captains can relate, most stories about sternwheeler repairs seem to have one thing in common: ISSUES. So sure enough, like any good tale, some minor problems arose that first day in regard to engine and cooling troubles. So, we stopped that evening at a cell to tie off at Racine Dam. On Monday, March 3rd, we stayed at Mel Lawrence's place behind Buffington Island to wait for my wife, Missy, and our pup, River, to act as our custom delivery service for parts, and once we received those, our repairs began.

By Tuesday, March 4th, we left Mel's and planned to lay over in Marietta that night. Coming upon Marietta's riverfront, we had Captain Butch at the wheel and boy, oh boy, it was a hold-my-beer type of landing! Good thing it was already in the plans to replace the front of the FRANKY D, Butch! But seriously, let's just say it was a little shy of a normal, soft landing.

Wednesday, March 5th, took us to Willow Island and Captain Rick DeMent's landing (NATALIE JANE). By Thursday, March 6th, our fifth day of travel, Mile Marker 160 was brutal with high water forcing the crew to get off the boat and wait for the water to recede. Our speed had decreased to about 2 mph that day due to the elevated water level. We left the FRANKY D and went home.

On Monday, March 10th, we went back out with the same crew for the last leg of our trip. The water was down and it was the start of a beautiful week to travel. We stopped at Captain Steve Folmar's landing (LADY CARMINA) at Mile Marker 99 for the night and headed to Rayland Marina that next morning. We finally made it to Rayland on Tuesday, March 11th ... it only took nine days

for what should have been a four-day trip, but at least we arrived safe and sound, all with perfect weather and no additional issues with the engine! We could all finally breathe a sigh of relief.

By Friday, March 14th, we put the trailer in the water to secure the FRANKY D, so we'd be ready when our help arrived to haul her out. The big day was Friday, March 21st, and we pulled her from the water with the help of Brian, from Nemo's Wrecker Service, and our friends.

Our Cover Story Continues on Page 5



ASA Officers

Capt. Dana DeMent
President

Capt. Bryan Hughes
1st Vice President

Capt. Butch LePort
2nd Vice President

Capt. Tom Cook
Treasurer/Budget/
Finance/Membership

Debbie Lucik
Secretary

Stephanie Burden
Ways & Means

Capt. Jim Kranz
Webmaster

Capt. Rick Burden
Steering

Kristina Price
Editor

Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendar!

- **May 17, 2025**
ASA Meeting @ Burdens' Riverfront Property
29571 Talbot Lane, Sardis, OH
(Ohio River, Mile Marker 137.2)
-- **Trustee Meeting at 2 p.m.** --
-- **General Meeting at 3 p.m.**--
- **July 5, 2025**
ASA Meeting @ Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
600 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV
-- **Trustee Meeting at 10:30 a.m.** --
-- **General Meeting at 11:00 a.m.**--
- **Sept. 6, 2025**
ASA Meeting @ Lafayette Hotel
Marietta, OH (Ohio River, Mile Marker 172)
-- **Trustee Meeting at 1 p.m.** --
-- **General Meeting at 2 p.m.**--
- **Nov. 8, 2025**
ASA Meeting @ Lafayette Hotel
Marietta, OH (Ohio River, Mile Marker 172)
-- **Trustee Meeting at 2 p.m.** --
-- **General Meeting at 3 p.m.** --
Annual Christmas Party & Dinner

If you are having a river event, and would like to be included in our calendar, please notify our Editor at editor@americansternwheel.org.



A Warm Welcome
to our Newest Member!

Mike Hosemann
of Cameron, SC
CHATTANOOGA STAR



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE
MILE MARKER
REFERENCE GUIDE
ON PAGE 4!

BOAT HUMOR



What causes some boats to become party boats? PIER PRESSURE

Why couldn't the first mate play solitaire? THE CAPTAIN WAS STANDING ON THE DECK

Which type of vegetable is banned on boats? LEEKS

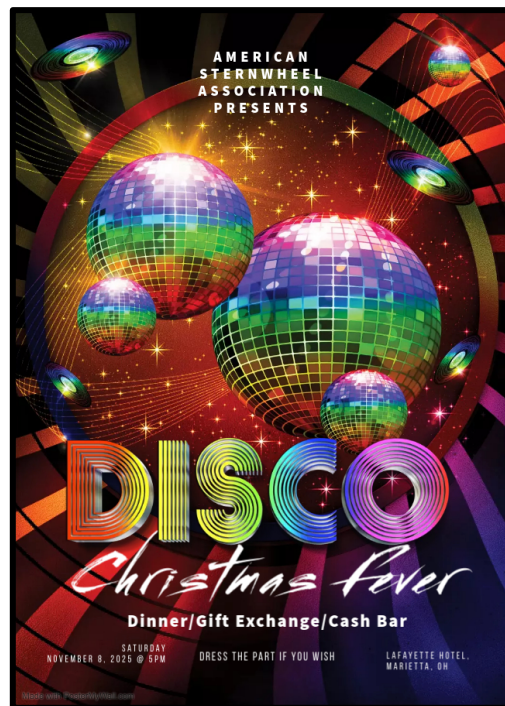
What did the water say to the boat? NOTHING – IT JUST WAVED

How do you get fresh milk from a boat? BY PULLING ON ITS RUDDER

What type of race doesn't require running? A REGATTA RACE

My friend said he races boats ... I said, "WOW, YOU MUST BE A FAST SWIMMER!"

Why don't boats make good comedians? THEIR JOKES ALWAYS GO OVERBOARD



RIVER LIFE – "The rivers
flow not past, but through us."



2025 STERNWHEEL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

CHARLESTON STERNWHEEL REGATTA

Date: July 3rd – 6th
Location: Charleston, WV
(Kanawha River, MM 58.4)

AUGUSTA RIVERFEST DAYS

Date: July 18th – 20th
Location: Augusta, KY
(Ohio River, MM 427)

ELIZABETH FIREMEN'S RIVERFEST

Date: July 25th – 26th
Location: Elizabeth, PA
(Monongahela River, MM 23)

TRIBUTE TO THE RIVER

Date: August 29th – 30th
Location: Point Pleasant, WV
(Ohio River, MM 265.2)

OHIO RIVER STERNWHEEL FESTIVAL

Date: September 5th – 7th
Location: Marietta, OH
(Ohio River, MM 172)

PARKERSBURG RIVERFEST

Date: September 12th – 13th
Location: Parkersburg, WV
(Ohio River, MM 184.6)

POMEROY STERNWHEEL REGATTA

Date: September 18th – 21st
Location: Pomeroy, OH
(Ohio River, MM 249.5)

MOTHMAN FESTIVAL

Date: September 20th – 21st
Location: Point Pleasant, WV
(Ohio River, MM 265.2)

AMERICA'S RIVER ROOTS FESTIVAL

Date: October 8th – 12th
Location: Cincinnati, OH
(Formerly Tall Stacks Festival)

If you know of a festival you would like to see included here, please notify our Editor at editor@americansternwheel.org.

2024 HIGH MILEAGE CONTEST WINNERS



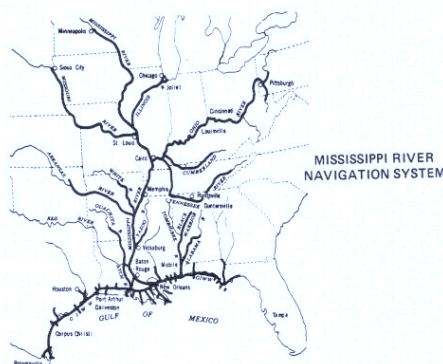
Winners in attendance, pictured left to right: Capt. Bryan Hughes of the KATIE H, Capt. Bill Price & Capt. Steve Price of the LAUREN ELIZABETH, and Capt. Rick Burden of the JENNY B.

Keep on counting those miles, Captains.

At the March ASA Meeting, winners of the 2024 High Mileage Contest were announced and congratulated for their participation. First Place was awarded to Captain Rick Burden of the JENNY B; Second Place went to Captain Steve Price and Captain Bill Price of the LAUREN ELIZABETH; and securing Third Place was Captain Bryan Hughes of the KATIE H.

And all in good fun, the sternwheeler with the *lowest* reported miles was Captain Jack Jarrett's LIDA ANN.

Members in attendance agreed we should continue what has now become an annual mileage contest. To participate in 2025's competition, contact Stephanie Burden at brightideaacres@gmail.com to receive your mileage form. Tracking season is from January 1st to December 31st. Congratulations to 2024's winners!

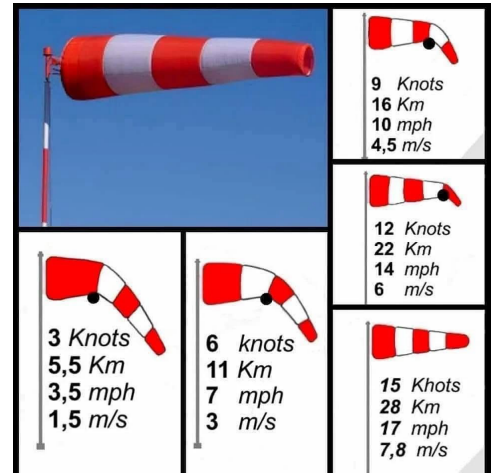


MILE MARKER REFERENCE GUIDE

Ohio River	Mile Marker
Pittsburgh, PA	0
Emsworth Lock & Dam	6.2
Dashields Lock & Dam	13.3
Beaver River Dock, PA	25.6
Montgomery Lock & Dam	31.7
East Liverpool Landing (Capt. Bill Price & Capt. Steve Price)	43
New Cumberland Lock & Dam	54.4
Steubenville, OH	68
Rayland Marina, OH	81.3
Pike Island Lock & Dam	84.3
Wheeling, WV	90.5
Glendale, WV (Capt. Steve Folmar)	99
Moundsville, WV	101.9
The 101 Landing, Moundsville, WV (Capt. Will Windsheimer)	101.8
Hannibal Lock & Dam	126.4
Old Lock 15, WV	129.1
Burden's Landing, Sardis, OH (Capt. Jarrod & Stephanie Burden)	137.2
Sistersville, WV	137.6
State Campground, WV	150
St. Marys, WV	155
Newport, OH (Capt. Rick DeMent)	160
Willow Island Lock & Dam	161.7
Marietta, OH	171.9
Parkersburg, WV	184.5
Belleville Lock & Dam	203.9
Ravenswood, WV	220.5
Mill Creek, WV	231.4
Racine Lock & Dam	237.3
Syracuse Banks, OH	245.5
Pomeroy, OH	249.7
Clifton, WV (Capt. Jim Hysell)	252.6
Point Pleasant, WV	265.4
Gallipolis Boat Club, OH	270.1
Robert C. Byrd Lock & Dam	279.2
Barge Cells near Smithland, KY	351
Augusta, KY	427
Kanawha River	Mile Marker
London Lock & Dam	82.8
Marmet Lock & Dam	67.7
Charleston, WV	58.4
Pier 54 Marina, Charleston, WV	54.2
Dunbar, WV	52.1
Nitro, WV	46.2
St. Albans, WV	45.8
Winfield Lock & Dam	31.1
Buffalo Boat Ramp, Buffalo, WV	25
Point Pleasant, WV	0

Hey Captains, don't forget to use passing arrangements!
Red, Port, 2 whistles **Green, Starboard, 1 whistle**

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR BOATERS WHEN MAKING A LANDING OR LOCK



A Windsock's position and orientation provide information about wind direction and speed.



To throw a line properly, you want to let the "eye" hang open in anticipation of lassoing a timberhead.



You always want to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) that fits snugly and has high visibility when working on the deck. You should also invest in a good pair of line handling gloves for hand protection, as well as improved grip in those wet conditions.

FRANKY D (continued from Cover Page)



Photo at Left: The FRANKY D is on the trailer and ready to be hauled out.

Photo at Right: Nemo's is ready to get the job done.

All photos provided courtesy of Stephanie Burden.



On Saturday, March 22nd, we started cutting off the bow of the boat. We had a few visitors during the day as Captain Jack Bedeck (EL THUMPER) and Captain Bill Price (LAUREN ELIZABETH) stopped by to check out the operation – and there were also some sightseers out and about that made the loop into the Marina! Now, we were well aware there were issues with water getting into the hull, but we didn't realize just how much – as you can see in the photo below – water poured out of a 4" hole on both sides! After a great dinner provided by Debbie Burden, a few of us had dessert, and by dessert, I mean a shot of Sambuca to celebrate the day!

By Sunday afternoon of March 23rd, the bow was cut out with the help of the Burdens (JENNY B). Cleanup work kicked off at the start of the week so that the new parts could be installed, and in the meantime, my dog, River, and the Burdens' dog, Josie, started a nice little friendship! Hopes were kept high that the weather would hold out going forward in the next phases of the process. Captain Jack Bedeck got busy drafting plans for the new design, and Captain Rick Burden has been finishing the bending of the remainder of the steel parts that need to be made.



On Thursday, March 27th, I came back to the Marina to haul away old steel and brought equipment to start grinding to clean up edges and begin putting the FRANKY D back together. Friday, March 28th, had the Burden crew show up to work a little before night set in, and then it was anyone's guess as to how early we'd get started Saturday morning. (That would all depend on how much beer was consumed, how much gambling was done, and how big the bonfire would get!)

Saturday, March 29th, and Sunday, March 30th, led to work, work and more work, additional cleanup, and then back to the everyday J-O-B, just to turn around and return to the Marina the following weekend for more FUN! (Buy a boat, they said; it's fun, they said!) By the April 4th-6th weekend, the flood waters began, and everyone was working hard to get the bottom floatable. The starboard side was put on and mostly welded, and before we left on Sunday the port side was in place and ready to be welded. And, guess what? The water wasn't as high as they predicted ... YEAH!

During the weekend of April 11th-13th, it was welding, welding, welding. We also removed the I-beam on the trailer, and could finally see what it really looked like. We are getting so much closer to our goal, so wish us luck, and next time we see you all, we hope to have a complete sternwheeler again!



THE ORIGINAL VENETIAN ... A Sternwheeler Boat in California

This is a documented craft built in 1984 that spent most of its time on the Napa River in sunny California. It is 50' x 20' and is said to have an intact working 200HP marine diesel engine and a Northern Lights generator powering two hydraulic motors. It does have a 1980's style kitchen and bar inside. The vessel has been out of the water for 10 years on blocks, and unfortunately does have some vandalism, including broken windows and tagging/graffiti.

This sternwheeler is being offered for FREE as long as it can be taken from the property located in Benicia, California. There could be a minimal deposit just to cover the expense of moving the vessel into the water, but that can be discussed further and negotiated. The family is just wanting to give the vessel a new life and a new home. SERIOUS INQUIRIES can contact Greg Joy at 925-381-4091 or by email at gregjoy65@gmail.com with any questions.



THIS & THAT NEWS SECTION



FOR SALE: **MOUNTAINEER STAR**

***UPDATED LISTING
SINCE MARCH
NEWSLETTER**

Built in 1965 by Dubuque Boat & Boiler. Can be a commercial passenger boat or private live aboard. Currently docked in Millsboro, PA. Vessel is 100' x 33' x 35'.

NEW selling price of **\$199,500**. Contact Michael Hughes at 412-996-0012 or by email at capt4207@gmail.com for additional details.

Useful Navigation Tools

usace.army.mil

(lock queue, lock status, vessel location, vessel traffic)

irpt.net

(Ohio River navigation notices, lock repairs/closures)

water.noaa.gov

(Nationwide river gauges)

waterdata.usgs.gov

(WV water conditions, levels, gauges, discharge)

weather.gov/pbz/rivermon

(Pittsburgh District water conditions)

LOCK UPDATES FOR BOATERS

- Morgantown Lock will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The Opekiska Lock and Hildebrand Lock will only be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates*: May 23rd, 24th, and 25th; June 1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th; and July 11th, 12th, and 13th.

*Bass fishing tournaments are scheduled on those dates putting additional boaters on the water and more traffic at locks.

- Maintenance schedules will affect the following:

Meldahl Locks & Dam – Main Chamber closure from June 9th to Sept. 12th, and Auxiliary Chamber closure from Sept. 29th to Nov. 21st.

Winfield Locks & Dam – No closures, however, roller gate repairs are due to take place Aug. 11th to Oct. 3rd.

Marmet Locks & Dam – Main Chamber closure from Oct. 6th to Oct. 31st.

- Overhead power line installation will take place on the Kanawha River, Mile 54.5, and is expected to be completed on/about July 13th. Boaters are urged to transit at their slowest safest speed to minimize wake and proceed with caution.
- The Auxiliary Lock Chamber at Greenup Locks & Dam, Mile 341.0 on the Ohio River, will be used primarily for recreational lockage.
- Due to the recent high-water event in April, shoaling conditions exist in the lower approach channel at Robert C. Byrd Locks & Dam on the Ohio River at Mile 279.2. Mariners are urged to check channel depth surveys, monitor lower gage readings, and contact the lockmaster via marine channel 13 for more information.





Stephanie's Ways & Means Updates

• **May Meeting:** The ASA May Meeting is being held by the Burden family (JENNY B) on May 17th at Captain Jarrod & Stephanie Burden's new property in Sardis, Ohio, and will be hosted by Stephanie, Jarrod, Debbie, and Rick. The Trustees will meet at 2 p.m. and the General Meeting will follow at 3 p.m. The meetings will be held outdoors and everyone is asked to please bring a chair. It would be greatly appreciated if those planning to attend can RSVP Stephanie – by phone at 740-403-1017 or email at brightideaacres@gmail.com – in order to count for food, seating, camping spots and dock space.

~ **Address & Directions** ~ The address is 29571 Talbot Lane, Sardis, OH 43946, however if this location does not show up on your GPS, you can use the neighbor's address as reference which is 33703 Talbot Lane. If you exit Interstate 77 in Marietta, go North on State Route 7, and drive 34 miles, you will be just outside of Fly, Ohio. After the sign at Fly, Talbot Lane/TR 542 will be the next road on the right and will look like a campground entrance. Follow the road until it dead ends. The location is on the left before the path completely ends. For those arriving by sternwheeler, the property is at Mile Marker 137.2 on the Ohio River.



~ **The Sistersville Ferry** ~ The Sistersville Ferry will open for rides the first weekend in May which ferries riders from Sistersville, WV, to Fly, OH, should you want to travel by ferry to the Sardis meeting location! The Ferry is the last operating ferry serving West Virginia and Ohio and has provided transportation over a 32-mile stretch of river not served by a bridge. Visit their website for more information at www.sistersvilleferry.org.

• **2025 T-Shirt Design:** We're excited for this year's T-shirt design which will be debuted in time for festival season, and are happy to announce it will feature Captain C.R. Neale's sternwheeler the JOE S. If your sternwheeler has never been featured on a shirt and you would like to be considered, please let Stephanie know.

• **2026 Pet Calendar:** The ASA is planning to release a Sternwheel Pet Calendar for 2026 and needs help with designing it, as well as pets to feature! Anyone interested will need to provide a high-quality photograph of their pet(s), along with the pet's name and owner's name. Also, if you have design knowledge, we would love to have your assistance. To be added to our list of pets, please email Stephanie at brightideaacres@gmail.com.

• **Sternwheel Festival Volunteers:** The festival circuit will soon be here, and we always need volunteers to help at the ASA Merchandise Tent. So, bring a chair, use your sales tactics, and have fun with us! We only ask for one hour of your time, and signups are always on the JENNY B.

• **Marietta's "Adopt A Boat" Program:** The Ohio River Sternwheel Festival in Marietta will once again link boats with merchants and a random drawing revealing pairings will be featured on Facebook. To become a participating boat, please see Stephanie Burden or Captain C.R. Neale, or send an email to brightideaacres@gmail.com.

• **Anniversaries in 2026:** We have two important anniversaries coming up next year! The American Sternwheel Association, in 2026, will memorialize its 50th year as an organization. What an accomplishment! Additionally, the MISS STERLING will celebrate her 100th birthday. The sternwheeler, owned by Captain Kris Eads & Tabitha Stutler, was built in 1926 and was the workboat MARIETTA before being purchased in the 1930's by Sterling Oil and renamed the MISS STERLING.

• **Upgraded Photo Search:** Thanks to Captain Jim Kranz, the ASA Website is currently under construction to feature a function allowing users to search photographs by year, boat name, river, and city. This will be a great addition to the site and available to members and non-members alike.

Meeting Minutes for American Sternwheel Association

GENERAL MEETING

Date: January 11, 2025

Location: Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, OH

General Membership Meeting Called to Order: by Capt. Dana DeMent, President, at 3:00 PM

Minutes

-- Motion made and accepted to defer reading of the minutes. Personal copies are available.

Treasurer's Report: Capt. Tom Cook submitted the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions from members.

-- Motion made and accepted.

Committee Reports

***Budget & Finance:** Capt. Tom Cook reviewed the Budget & Finance Report.

-- Motion made and accepted.

***Membership:** Capt. Tom Cook reported there are currently 279 members in 25 states.

***Steering Committee:** Capt. Rick Burden, reported no complaints.

***Magazine & Newsletter:** Editor, Kristina Price, reported that the Sternwheeler Magazine was out and members should be receiving them soon. New stories and features continue to be needed.

***Website Report:** Capt. Jim Kranz reported the boat section version was complete. If anyone has information or photos they wish to add, contact him.

***Directory & Other Projects:** Stephanie Burden, had nothing to report.

***Ways & Means:** Stephanie Burden, reported that the new design on T-shirts this year would feature the JOE S.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Debbie Burden submitted a written invite for the May meeting to be held at Jarrod & Stephanie Burden's new property on the Ohio River in Sardis, OH.

-- Motion made and accepted.

Capt. Bryan Hughes submitted a written invitation for the July meeting to be held July 5th during the Charleston Sternwheel Regatta. Discussion was regarding this being the first Saturday of the month, rather than the second Saturday. Since so many members are at this event and it has worked in the past, a motion was made.

-- Motion made and accepted.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:45 PM, motion not needed.



Captain Bryan Hughes smiles for the camera during the raffle portion of the General Meeting held in March at the Lafayette.

He always does a fantastic job of announcing and showcasing the items.

Thanks, Bryan!



The American Sternwheel Association, Inc. was founded in January 1976 as a non-profit organization by a small group of enthusiastic sternwheel owners. The first meeting was held at the Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, Ohio.

Meetings are held every other month with the majority still being held at the Lafayette Hotel. Meetings in May and July are usually held in other cities by invitation.

Thank you for being a valued member and helping us continue the tradition – it's amazing to think that we will be celebrating our 50th year in 2026!

IN OUR NEXT ASA NEWSLETTER ...

WE WILL FEATURE A STORY ABOUT THE
STEAMBOAT AVALON
BY ROBERT G. POWELL