



The Hovercraft Society  
Formed in 1971

*News Notes*

No 6-23 NOVEMBER 2023



*A Griffon Hoverwork 8000TD of the South Korea Coastguard at speed skirting the shoreline  
Courtesy Griffon Hoverwork and the South Korean Coastguard*

## INTRODUCTION

This month we have a range of news and information for readers. Griffon Hoverwork have released a video showing the inside of the new GH12000 craft Banri before its delivery to Japan in September. At smaller scale British Hovercraft Company have delivered their first BHC-700 to Chile together with another Tidal-Pro, and two smaller craft to Fremantle in Australia and Dokkum in The Netherlands.

Silverstream outfits of their system to existing ships during docking continues, recently with that

of the *MV Ballard*. They also have a long order list for newbuild installations in China right now. Good news for energy saving and the transition!

In this issue your Technical Secretary has made a first attempt to pull together a summary of key clubs and associations worldwide. It gives a flavour for the activity ongoing with recreational craft. It is limited to organisations that have an internet site presence. There are more out there we are sure and will endeavour to connect as soon as we can.

Two other areas that merit building directories or yearly summary information are the key ACV

and Air Cushion Technology businesses on a global basis, and perhaps rather more difficult, a directory of potential suppliers. The first will be addressed in early 2024. The second is something for a bit later!

To start a ball rolling, if members have any listings or info on any relevant manufacturers or suppliers, please email Techsec and he will follow up the leads.

One comment though up front – there are a lot of wild projects and organisations out there. Please excuse us but we need to record only ‘reputable’ organisations in such a directory.

This month once again there are a group of interesting videos from YouTube which we hope will be interesting to watch. The longest is a full programme on delivery of CCG AP188-400 Moytel from Southampton to Vancouver.

Also included are videos by Nicholas Flint and John Robertson from the Hovercraft Cruising Club of their voyages this summer. Many Thanks to Nicholas and John for these.

## NEWS ITEMS

### GRIFFON HOVERWORK

#### Video of Banri passenger cabin

Before Banri was loaded out for delivery Ben Avery and Griffon Hoverwork recorded a short video showcasing the craft internals. If you click on the image below the link will take you there.



*Video of Banri trials and cabin internals*

The extra length compared to the Hovertravel craft really adds to the sense of space.

This craft will arrive in Oita in November. Craft number 3, *Tanso*, will hit the water in the UK also in November for sea trials.

### CWIND CHANGES OWNER

[CWind](#), the Grimsby-based offshore wind support services provider that operates the hybrid powered SES *CWind Pioneer* off-shore Ramsgate, has been acquired by London-based investment firm [Inspirit Capital](#). Inspirit Capital specialises in the acquisition of businesses that are no longer a core part of their parent company’s strategic objectives.

Inspirit Capital Investment Manager [Paul Youens](#) called CWind “a clear market leader in the offshore wind market”.



*CWind Pioneer, Courtesy CWind*

CWind, which was part of the Chelmsford-based offshore engineering company Global Marine Group, will become a standalone entity following the acquisition.

Established in 2010, CWind, which lists 12 owned and operated CTVs in its fleet, including the *CWind Pioneer*, completes around 60,000 crew transfers per year to UK and European offshore wind farms. Global Marine Group acquired CWind in 2017.

Commenting on Inspirit Capital’s takeover, Joe Browse, managing director at CWind, said: “CWind is embarking on an exciting journey with Inspirit Capital as our new owner. Our unwavering commitment to the offshore wind industry remains stronger than ever. This acquisition will enable us to enhance our offering, further explore innovative solutions for our clients, and continue supporting the growth of clean, sustainable energy generation.”

Thanks to [Splash247.com](http://Splash247.com) and reporter Adis Ajdin for this information.

### SILVERSTREAM NEWS

Silverstream and [MAN Energy Solutions](http://MAN Energy Solutions) have signed a collaboration agreement to support the decarbonisation of the global shipping industry.

The agreement will explore solutions for improving vessel efficiency spanning both newbuild installations and retrofits. MAN Energy Solutions power approximately half of the world's commercial ships, so this collaboration will help to accelerate adoption of Silverstream's proven air lubrication technology across the global fleet.

Silverstream's technology releases a uniform carpet of air to reduce the frictional resistance between the hull and the water, cutting average net fuel consumption and GHG emissions by 5-10%.

While the air lubrication system is applicable to all shipping segments and is effective in all sea states, it is especially effective on large oceangoing vessels due to the size and shape of their hull.

MAN two-stroke engines are the preferred choice of propulsion for these commercial vessels.

### MV Ballard back in service after retrofit

Fresh out of dry dock and back in action! Last week, [Klaveness Combination Carriers ASA](http://Klaveness Combination Carriers ASA) MV Ballard glided majestically into Australia on her "magic carpet" of bubbles produced by the [Silverstream Technologies](http://Silverstream Technologies) air lubrication system. As the sun rises high overhead in Kwinana, watch Ballard on the last leg of her journey into berth for a caustic soda discharge to Alcoa by clicking on the image below. There is just a hint of the air bubble curtain in her wake.



### BHC NEWS – 700 TO CHILE

The sun was shining as BHC loaded another hovercraft shipment bound for their distributor in South America.

These BHC700 & Tidal-Pro Hovercraft were secured into the container and were sent on their way to Santiago and the nearby copper mines to work on the tailings at the beginning of October.



Hovercraft are the perfect solution for this commercial application, as these lagoons are shallow & full of soft silt spoils from the mining processes.

BHC hovercraft are hand-built to order, colour and specification. They are also a Garmin stockist and can offer various discounted GPS/plotter options.

BHC advise that for commercial applications there several ancillaries that can be incorporated within the hovercraft production depending on specification requirements; from flush mount VHF with antenna kit, radar array, an A-frame gantry with search/deck lights, to basket stretcher and even a 'cuddy' cockpit cover, to protect crew from the weather in icy conditions/locations.



Previous page top, the BHC 700 loading into container. Middle The 700 ready for operations. Above a view of the shallow lake where the craft will work. Photos courtesy BHC.



Above, a BHC Tidal Pro on site at the Santiago mine area. Courtesy BHC.

### Craft to Fremantle

Late September BHC sent a bright red ex-demonstration Coastal-Pro Hovercraft on the way to its new home in Fremantle, Western Australia - for some fun in the sun



Above, the BHC Demonstrator before delivery to Fremantle near Perth in Western Australia.

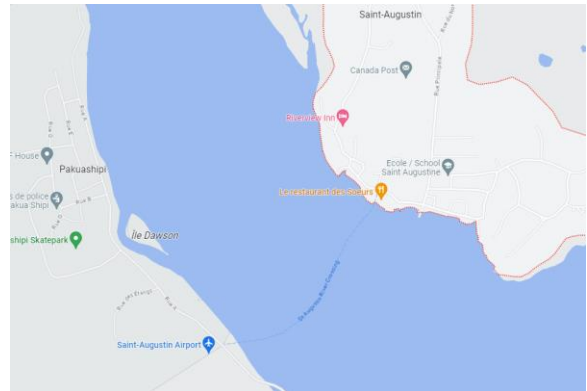
### Craft to Holland

In the middle of October customers in Dokkum, The Netherlands received a bright blue Beast hovercraft. The folk at BHC gave driving training over the owner's farm, including some flooded areas and the river system, together with maintenance instruction.



Photo courtesy BHC and owners Jan and Heidi Procee

### CANADIAN HOVERCRAFT SERVICE



Map extract courtesy Google Maps

Société des Traversiers du Québec operate a GH2000 between Pakuashipi and Saint Augustine across the St Augustine river at the end of the St Lawrence on east coast Canada.

The craft is called *L'esprit de Pakuashipi* and carries IMO registration 9657909. It was delivered in 2012. The company and its services can be seen [here](#).

A second craft to be delivered has been seen on trials in the Solent at the end of October. It is reported that it will join the first craft to increase service frequency and allow all year operation.



The first GH2000 *L'esprit de Pakuashipi* in service. Photo courtesy Société des Traversiers du Québec.

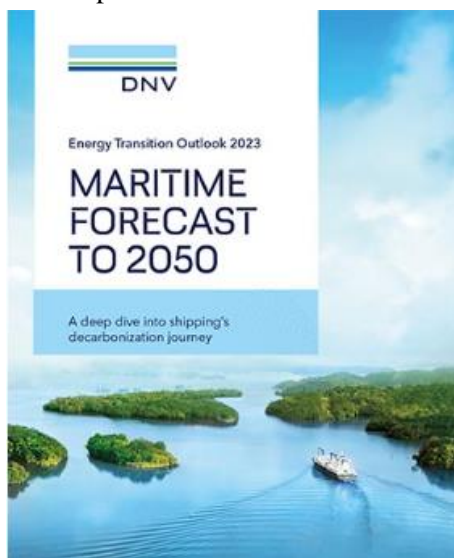
## TECHNICAL BRIEFS

### Springer Journal goes open access

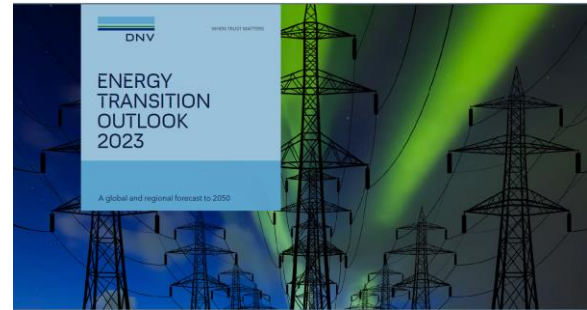
The Springer journal 'Automotive and Engine Technology' will go fully open access from January 2024. This journal publishes research into engine technology. There is a focus now on research into the energy transmission, so there should be some interesting papers as we go forward. Go [here](#) to find out more. We will keep tabs on the Journal and let members know when particularly interesting papers are published.

### DnV Energy Transition Reports

DnV have launched 2023 editions of their suite of energy transition reports including those for the marine industry. Key reports that members will find helpful are as follows:



The overall review is in their report that can be downloaded by going to the link below.



As we move forward it is becoming clearer that methanol and ammonia will play a part as well as hydrogen fuel cells and battery electric for small and mid-sized high speed vessels.

It may be noted that both [Incat](#) and [Austal](#) are now presenting their first battery powered designs for passenger and passenger/vehicle ferries. Clearly the future is approaching fast.

DnV are now running a series of podcasts on the marine transition. You can find these [here](#). They can also be accessed through Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Much interesting information!

## LATEST FROM OWEN ELLIS

Now the QR1 hybrid is in Montreal with Owen he has posted several new videos of his craft in action now he is home in Montreal. Go [here](#) on Facebook to take a look and perhaps message him.



"Brothers in Arms" *QR1 REVOLUTION* Electric Hybrid (WhisperRita) and Revtech *RENEGADE iQx* (HoverRooToo) enjoying the Montreal autumn sun! Courtesy Owen Ellis, Revtech.

## HOVERCRAFT MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum is open on most weekends of the year from 10am to 4pm. Details and updates can be found on their internet site [THM](#), or on the Facebook page 'Friends of the Hovercraft Museum'.

### Clubs and Associations Info

We present below an initial collection of current information on hovercraft clubs and associations.

The aim is to build this into an annual guide that can also be issued as a standalone document. We start with what are believed to be the key organisations globally and will add others once up to date info is available. Please note that links to other organisations included in some of the internet sites below are out of date. We will endeavour to fill in the gaps in a future update.

Both the Hoverclub of America, and the Australian Hovercraft Association have held meetings for cruising, competition, and fun in the last month or so, and enthusiasts from many parts of Europe gathered in August for the annual 'Rhone Raid'. In the UK the HCGB racing calendar is now back to normal, and the HCC cruisers are in regular action.

## THE HOVERCRAFT CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



The HCGB primary focus is a series of racing weekends organised each year at locations distributed around the UK.

The club has racing formulae ranging from juniors (to age 16), novices, colts (16 to 18), F1, F2, F3, F50, F35, and Open classes. The different classes are based on engine size or power rating.

The club has a series of regulations covering racing craft, cruising craft, and management of events. In addition, there is scrutineering for craft technical safety, and driver training records to control graduation from novice through to full qualification.

During the later part of 2023 season, a new arrangement for positioning craft on the start grid was experimented with to create greater 'competition' within races. This was found to be welcomed by racers.

In addition, races including several classes together were ran, increasing the fun for those who had few competitors in their class.

The main issue to solve was that of race scoring, which was more complex, but solvable with some effort. This experience will be taken forward to the 2024 season.

### 2024 Provisional Race Meetings

While the locations have not yet been fixed, the race meeting weekends have been tabled as follows: 20<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> September. Thus, a total of ten possible events for the championship.

It is recommended to visit the [HCGB site](#) for UK information, email addresses and telephone numbers and to contact event organisers directly for the latest information.

It may be noted also that cruising events are organised by HCGB Northwest Branch and that [British Hovercraft](#) also organise several cruising events in the Southeast of England.

On the HCGB site there is a listing of hovercraft coastal, and river launch sites or those looking to cruise or explore – with appropriate support. They can be found [here](#), and include details of points of interest, maps, and safety guidance.

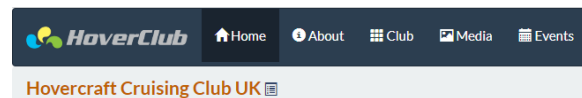
## WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION



The World Hovercraft Federation has announced that the next World Championships will be held in Germany, at Saalburg on 29<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024, further details can be found on the WHF site by clicking on the logo above.

The WHF has issued a series of 16 regulations documents that include similar requirements to those of the HCGB for racing and technical safety while also having guidelines for speed runs and hosting of world championship events. Go to the WHF home page by clicking on the banner above to see the list and download. A listing of member countries gives email addresses for local contact.

## HOVERCRAFT CRUISING CLUB UK



The Hovercraft Cruising Club UK was founded in 2010 by a group of enthusiasts interested in exploring with their craft. They have since made tours around the lochs of Scotland, river estuaries, and along the coast in many parts of the UK.



The requirements for safe cruising are somewhat different to those of a circuit racing craft and so the HCC have published a Code of Practise of their own, consistent with the CMA regulations developed by the Hovercraft Manufacturers Association some years ago. The code of practise can be downloaded [here](#).

During 2023 members have made some interesting cruises and documented them with very professional video including drone footage. These can be found [here](#). We introduce the latest

with some comment in the section on internet below.

Currently membership to HCC is free. To become a member, fill in the online form with your details. An email will be sent with confirmation.

There are several open forums on the HCC site for discussion and Q&A, and a member's area with forums on design, build and maintenance together with other documents and guidelines.

## EUROPEAN HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION



The EHF is a smaller group of European Nations that run a championship, sometimes combining with events in the national championships of UK, Germany, Sweden etc.

EHF also publishes a series of guidelines for construction, competition, and marshalling that follow those of HCGB and WHF. The racing classes are not identical, however. The documents can be found on the download page of the EHF site, click on the logo above.

Two events were held in 2023 in association with HCGB race meetings at Allerton Park and Whittlebury Hall.

## FEDERATION FRANCAIS DES AEROGLISEURS



This is the site for the French Federation for hovercraft clubs. It has links to the other active clubs such as Anjou and Aero Loire.

The EHF/WHF regulations are also available here. A journal is issued from time to time.

## CLUB RHÔNE-ALPES MOTONAUTIQUE

This club arranges an annual rally on the Rhone river over a week in the summer. This year the first few days were in a stretch of the river from Avignon up to south of Lyon, and then after a road transfer to Briord following a section up to Yennes. Support teams follow along the nearby roads. In addition to the hovercraft there were two

support jet skis and a doctor. This year the teams were 3 English hovercraft, 1 Welsh hovercraft, 1 Romanian hovercraft and 4 French hovercraft. The route included traversing 7 barrages and 4 locks over a total of 451 km of river. Quite something!

The club's site can be accessed [here](#) or click on the image below.



### 32 ème Raid en aéroglisseurs 2023

*Ceci est un Pré Programme*

Dimanche 30 Juillet	Saint Étienne des Sorts : Arrivée des participants	
Lundi 31 Juillet	Saint Étienne des Sorts. Contrôle technique. Essais Prologue – Pont St Esprit – St Etienne des Sorts	52 km
Mardi 1 Août	Saint Étienne des Sorts – Cruas	59 km
Mercredi 2 Août	Cruas – Andance	92 km
Jeudi 3 Août	Andance /Givros.../ Liaison voiture/Font de Jonc/ Serrières de Briord	96 km
Vendredi 4 Août	Serrières de Briord - <b>REPOS</b> Démonstration	30 km
Samedi 5 Août	Serrières de Briord - Défilée de Yenne-Seysssel-Serrières de Briord	122 km
Dimanche 6 Août	Retour Maison	

**Total 451 Km**

A collection of the craft is shown below.

*Photos below courtesy of the Club Rhone-Alpes Motonautique.*



*Below a collection of craft from 2022.*



The club does run other events during the year as well. The internet site provides summaries of their events.

### CLUB ANJOU AÉROGLISSEURS



The Club Anjou Aeroglisseurs was formed in 1977 so has quite a history. Its internet site can be found by clicking on the banner image above, and a summary of its history [here](#).

Members are active in racing, and local demonstrations, and have participated in the international championships.

A video from a novice race taken with a camera on the thrust duct of the craft of Thomas Clavreuil can be seen by clicking on the image below.



This event was the last of their season, at Port St-Pere in late September.

### CLUB AERO LOIRE

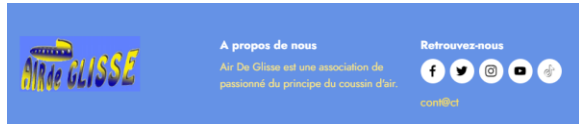


This club is based at Veuzain-sur-Loire about 15 km northeast of Tours in the Loire valley. As can be seen from the header its members like to race as well as go on the river.



The site for the club (click on the banner above) includes links to other French Hoverclubs, and documentation including photos from their main activities since 2012. Members also participate in the Rhone Raids so you can find photos from those here as well.

### AIR DE GLISSE



This is a site for enthusiasts rather than an association. The front end is recent, and links to an older style site. Within this there are a wealth of construction plans for personal hovercraft, details of the rules and regulations for the French Hovercraft Federation, and a section on the overall history of hovercraft invention and development in France.

### GERMAN HOVERCRAFT CLUB



The German Hovercraft Association and its constituent clubs can be found on the site run by the Schweizer family, who are long time hovercraft enthusiasts. The site has general information and images from recent events, including a useful collection from some of the French events that they participated in such as Port Saint Père run by Anjou Aeroglisseurs.

Click on the banner above to go to the site!

### SWEDISH HOVERCLUB



The Swedish Hoverclub is a group who have greatest activity with racing and run events with

the same classes as HCGB and EHF. You can see from the header there is a significant group of racers. They hosted the 2022 World Championships at Flottsbro near Stockholm.

Contacts are on their site, and latest news is mostly posted on their Facebook page available from the site.

Magnus Ivanoff is a core member of the club, a keen racer as well as commercial hovercraft builder and posts on his own Facebook page.

### HOVERCLUB OF AMERICA



The Hoverclub of America has been in existence since the 1970's. It has an active calendar of events each year including weekend and week-long gatherings for cruising and racing.



Their membership is highest in the mid-west of the USA and events are spread through this area which has many rivers and lakes to explore . The next event they hold will be in April 2024 – a cruise event in Florida.

The HCA have an active forum on Facebook which is also open to non-members and includes material on their recent events in addition to the videos on the main club site.



Members are also mailed a newsletter, HoverNews, on a bimonthly basis and can refer

to the last decade of these in pdf form on the HCA site.

### AUSTRALIAN HOVERCRAFT ASSOCIATION



The AHA comprises four branch clubs in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

Their latest event was the annual rally called Oz Hover, held in September, at Lake Coolmunda, Queensland this year. This time it was entitled the Arthur Stead Memorial Rally, as a memorial remembering Arthur Stead who passed away late last year. Arthur was a much loved and valued member of the hovercraft fraternity giving freely of his time negotiating with government entities, web site construction, national rallies and preparing and leading one of the longest hovercraft adventures on the Murray river.



The Hoverclub of Victoria holds fly-days almost every month, many at [the Club site at Lake Narracan, Moe](#), east of Melbourne.

The Queensland Hoverclub have their own Internet site, [here](#), with contact details, some videos and photos, particularly of an expedition along the Murray River some years ago.

### FACEBOOK GROUPS

Briefly this time here are three to go to and join if you are a Facebook fan. They are most useful for the latest news and short videos of action.

[Hoverclub of America forum](#)

[Friends of The Hovercraft Museum](#)

[Friends of Hovercraft](#)

Click on the links above. The HCA forum contains both videos and queries about personal

hovercraft and larger ACV such as the Hovertravel service from Southsea to Ryde.

Friends of Hovercraft is a general ACV interest group that features photos and comments about ACV's old and new.

Friends of The Hovercraft Museum is a channel for people interested in Hovercraft History and particularly the craft exhibited at Lee on Solent.

### Society News



### OCTOBER PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION



PRESENTATION MEETING 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023



On October 12<sup>th</sup> at 19:00 UK time Bryan Phillips from Amphibious Marine, Shelton, Washington State gave a talk with slides and video about his company, hovercraft, and long-distance journeys along the US NW coast towards Alaska.

The presentation and subsequent discussion is now available on the THS YouTube channel.

Click on the image above to go straight there.

### THS MEETINGS

The following THS meetings are currently planned, see table below Details of further meetings will be publicised in the events blog

once finalised, and in the next NewsNote. At present all meetings are held on Zoom.

2024	Subject
February 8 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 UKt	AGM
February 15 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 UKt	Committee Meeting
February 22 <sup>nd</sup> 19:30 UKt	Presentation Meeting
March 14 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 UKt	Committee Meeting

If members have any issue or technical subject they would like to discuss with Committee, please let us know with an email to Techsec who will coordinate with committee to arrange a special meeting or add to the meetings above. Attendance would be by Zoom. If request is from outside Europe, we can set up a meeting at times to suit you!

**FROM THE INTERNET**

We hope the material below is useful and enjoyable. Click on images to go to the recordings.

A recent discovery is a film about the SES100B. Try this [link](#) to view it, 3:29. More in the next issue.

**Delivery of Moytel to Vancouver**

‘Huge Moves’ by Spark Video, 44:38

This film follows the team put the craft through a series of rigorous sea trials followed by a dangerous crossing of a turbulent English Channel to the Netherlands where it will be craned onto an ocean-going vessel for its 5000-mile sea voyage long.



**Isle of Bute Circumnavigation**

A film by Nicholas Flint and John Robertson of the Hovercraft Cruising Club September 2023. The film lasts 7:34.



**Loch Awe Cruise**

This is also from September and lasts 9:50, another amazing cruise. Thanks to Nicholas and HCC for this.



**River Severn Exploration**

This is from April 2023 and lasts 6:11. Interesting cranga into the river! This is serious hovering.



**Spacex hovercraft in action**

A short drone film by Michael Farrell, 3:35





Hovertravel has agreed to allow THS members to book flights between Southsea and Ryde at a 20% discounted rate when booked online.

To obtain the discount members must use the current **THS promotion code**, which is available either from THS Treasurer, or from the Newsletter Editor.

At time of boarding, they should show their **membership card**. The offer is available for up to two people travelling at the same time. Once booked the tickets are not refundable or transferrable.



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