



GREAT LAKES  
CRUISING CLUB

*Lifeline*  
Winter 2023

Join the fun  
**Boat shows**  
Toronto, Cleveland, Chicago

Plenty to see and do  
**Harbor Insider**  
Rochester, N.Y. (0-6)

Try the new classes  
**GLCC School**  
Now free to club members

**Rendezvous**  
**2024**  
Escanaba, Mich. (M-101)  
July 14-18





Volume 91 Number 2

CONTENTS

From the Bridge .....2
From the Editor.....4
Toronto Members' Meetup.....5
GLCCSchool.....6
Rendezvous 2024..... 7
2024 Boat Shows ..... 8-9
Annual Meeting Recap ..... 10-11
Harbor Insider.....16
New Members .....18
Eight Bells .....19
Port Captain's Logbook.....23
Ads/Calendar.....Back Cover

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The membership application which may
be included with this issue of Lifeline is for
your use in signing up a new member. It
DOES NOT mean that your membership
has expired. It is just a reminder that GLCC
is always interested in new members, and you
are the source. Sign up a new member today!

Editorial Closing Dates

Editorial copy and change of address should
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Club heads in exciting directions

I hope all of you enjoyed your summer boating season. Our club hosted
events all over the Great Lakes. I hope you were able to attend one or two
and strengthen your relationships with other members and maybe make
some new friends.

The most exciting news is that starting this winter, the GLCCSchool is
FREE to members. Our marketing committee recommended the board
move in this direction to provide a new, significant member benefit.

As a member, you will now be able to attend several classes each winter
to explore new cruising destinations, learn about best practices in anchor-
ing, or attend the ever-popular Rum class. For more information, reach out
to Port Captain Mark Gagyi.

A second big piece of news is the upcoming transition in our main mem-
ber communications, specifically Lifeline. In 2024 we will transition from our
quarterly print magazine to a monthly online newsletter.

We're doing this for several reasons. First, since we print the current
Lifeline, we must prepare the materials a couple of months in advance of
the actual distribution. This means all the materials are somewhat dated
once you receive the publication.

Second, less than 20% of the membership actually gets the print version of
the Lifeline, meaning we're working hard to create this glossy, expensive print
version of our member communication for a limited subset of our membership.

The new online newsletter will have a professional look using Constant
Contact software. This will allow us to have plenty of pictures, and much
more timely information. The newsletter will have brief items about activities
and events, each linked to longer or more detailed pages on the website.
This will allow the reader to move quickly through the newsletter and then
focus on those areas of most interest.

Since 80% of our members read the Lifeline online, we hope the tran-
sition is easy. But please share your thoughts, comments and suggestions
after you start receiving the newsletter.

Finally, several of the issues during the year will explore particular
cruising areas on the Great Lakes. For example, we might have an article
on cruising Georgian Bay, or the secrets of exploring Isle Royale on Lake
Superior. We want our publication to not only provide information on our
events, but also be a source of information on cruising destinations you
might want to add to your bucket list.

I know some of you may have concerns, especially those who get the print
version. But in an effort to keep our members informed on a timely basis, use

On the Cover

Escanaba, Mich. (M-101) Lighthouse

Escanaba is the location of the 2024 GLCC Rendezvous

- Photo by James Conkis / Wikimedia Commons

our time and talents most effectively, and create a better member experience, we feel this is the right course.

We do, though, plan on producing an annual printed yearbook-style magazine after the summer boating season that will highlight the past year, especially pictures of the fun our members had at club events. This will also be a place to recognize award winners, provide the Founders Award log and article, and to provide a hard copy that can be used to show prospective members the quality of the events and provide information on the benefits of GLCC membership.

Moving on to another subject, I'd like to remind all members of the importance of adding comments to our Harbor Reports. These continue to be the lifeblood of our organization, and the reason over 95% of prospects

join the GLCC. Since you may have done some cruising over the summer, you could now add information to a harbor you visited.

Be it a water depth at the marina entrance, new or discontinued services, or just a recommendation on a nice restaurant you enjoyed, please add it as a comment to the Harbor Report. Our Harbor Report team reviews those comments, and updates Harbor Reports with new information.

Discussing Harbor Reports reminds me of a story: A number of years ago, several of us (5 boats if I remember correctly) were cruising the North Channel. We pulled into the bay formed from the U-shaped Eagle Island, Ont. (NC-25), and noted there was just one boat deep into the well-protected bay. In the bay there is a small island right in the center called Figgy Islet. Being good GLCC members, we had read the Eagle Island Harbor Report and noted that there is a CAUTION about a large rock NE of the Figgy Islet. Knowing that, we motored around the south side of the little island to avoid the risk. As we were motoring to the anchorage area, we saw the single boat in the back had pulled his anchor and headed out (not sure if he wanted a more secluded location, or it was just a coincidence).

Regardless, he chose to go around the north side of the Figgy Islet. Sure enough, he ran right into this large, submerged rock and became stuck. We could hear the clunk when he hit the rock. Our boats all anchored deep in the Inlet and a couple of us jumped in my dinghy to see if we could offer a hand. To make a long story short,

using his halyard, we pulled the boat over sideways, reducing his draft, and he was able to motor off the rock.

The moral of the story: join the GLCC, then read and follow the Harbor Reports to get important information about navigating our wonderful Great Lakes. And please, add comments as often as you can to keep this valuable resource up to date.

Pam and I pulled *Bleu Lagoon* out for the season in mid-October. Pam and I will escape part of the Ohio winter in Cape Coral, Florida, for February and also visit several friends before and after. Pam and I wish you all a great holiday season.

I know I'll also be doing some armchair navigation over the winter as we plan our 2024 cruising from Lake Erie to the Rendezvous in Escanaba, Mich.



Aerial view of Escanaba, Mich. (M-101), site of the 2024 GLCC Rendezvous. Photo by Todd Hurley & Marge Beaver

(M-101). The dates for the 2024 Rendezvous will be July 14–18. Escanaba is just north of Door County's beautiful cruising area (M-72.5:M-85) and within the Bays de Noc area (M-89.5:M-101) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Escanaba has a rich maritime heritage. Nestled along the picturesque shores is the Sand Point Lighthouse. It casts its beam across the waters of Little Bay De Noc. Built in 1867, this iconic landmark has guided countless ships away from the treacherous sand reefs that once plagued the bay.

The chairwomen for this rendezvous are Lori Sprague and Port Captain Marilyn Kinsey. Bobbe Miller will run the ships store. As I write this, lots of planning is occurring to make this Rendezvous an event that you won't want to miss.

There also are some great cruising opportunities in the area such as Fayette State Park (M-91) and Door County. Also, the eastern shore of northern Lake Michigan has the upscale marinas/locations of Lake Charlevoix (M-6), Harbor Springs (M-4), Petoskey (M-5), Grand Traverse Bay (with several wonderful harbors M-7:M-13.5) and much more.

Pam and I plan on making northern Lake Michigan our cruising destination in 2024. I hope many of you join us.

**Doug Jackson, Commodore**  
([doug@dougangpam.com](http://doug@dougangpam.com))



Hello ALL Great Lakes Cruising Club Members,

Your GLCC 2024 Membership Renewal Notice & Agreement was mailed to all Memberships. **The renewal forms are for all members who pay dues through the website, members who have a recurring dues subscription and those members who mail it to the office for payment. PLEASE read the instructions that are on your renewal form.**

Please also take a minute to review the information on the renewal form as that information was auto-populated from your membership profiles. You are encouraged to make any needed changes to your profile once you are logged on to the GLCC website.

Members with a recurring dues subscription should select the Recurring Fees tab on their member profile/account page to confirm that the credit card information is still accurate and that the **billing address for the credit card** that is being used for your dues payment **is correct**. Anyone with an outstanding balance for 2024 will need to call the office to make their payment.

We are looking forward to another wonderful Great Lakes Cruising Club year.


**Your Great Lakes Cruising Club Office** 



## GLCC Website Challenge

Matt White of Kalamazoo, Michigan, *Daisy*, got the correct website answer last issue: "The in-person meetings are going full steam ahead: Where and on what date will the 2023 Great Lakes Cruising Club all-members meeting be this year?" The correct answer: Go to the GLCC website.

The prize for the first correct answer is two official GLCC cold beverage cozies, and a mention in the *Lifeline*.

Remember: The GLCC website (glccclub.com) has information of value to GLCC members. The Website Challenge is designed to encourage members to take advantage of this members-only resource. 



## From the Editor



## Whiskey Harbor among thousands of little-known Great Lakes gems

One of the joys of exploring the shorelines of the Great Lakes is coming across generally overlooked gems. Take Whiskey Harbor for example.

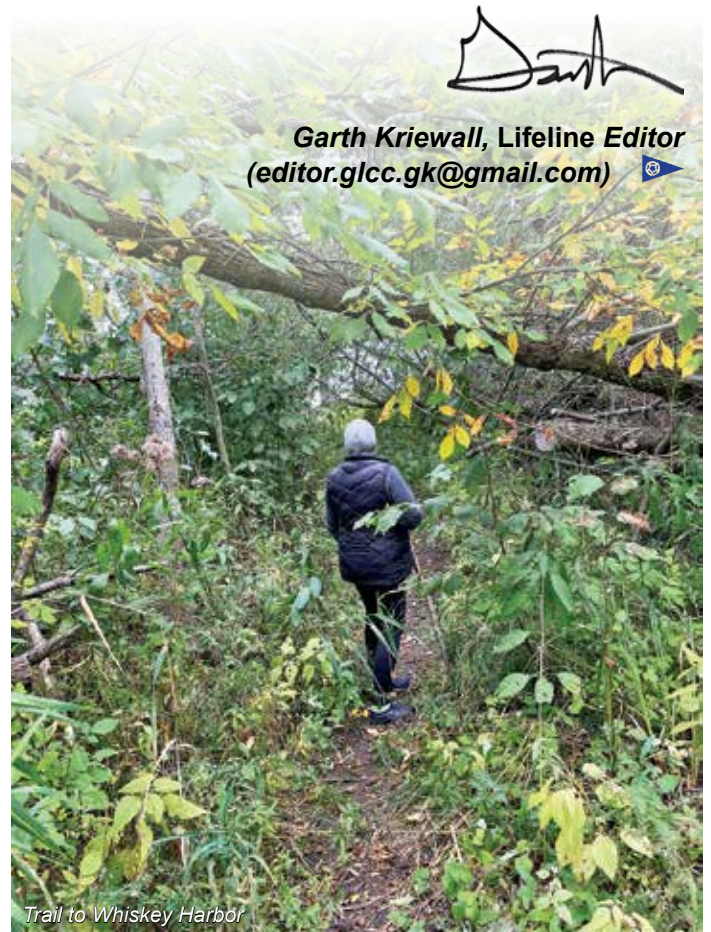
Whiskey Harbor is on Lake Huron in the northeastern part of Michigan's Thumb between Port Hope and Port Austin. It remains undeveloped and difficult to access, much as it has been since, well, forever.

It got its name just as one might imagine: During the Prohibition era in the U.S., this hard-to-access, obscure harbor was a favored site for Detroit's infamous Purple Gang to bring in alcohol from Canada.

Whiskey Harbor and its surrounding 45 acres is now owned by the Michigan Nature Association. It has rustic trails from the gravel road to the harbor. Birders consider it a prime spot to view migrating birds.

Literally thousands of such spots exist across the Great Lakes. Few have the Purple Gang as part of their history, but each is worth discovering.

**Garth Kriewall, Lifeline Editor**  
([editor.glcc.gk@gmail.com](mailto:editor.glcc.gk@gmail.com)) 



*Trail to Whiskey Harbor*




# Members' meetup planned for Toronto

*By Port Captain Cynthia Sunstrum*

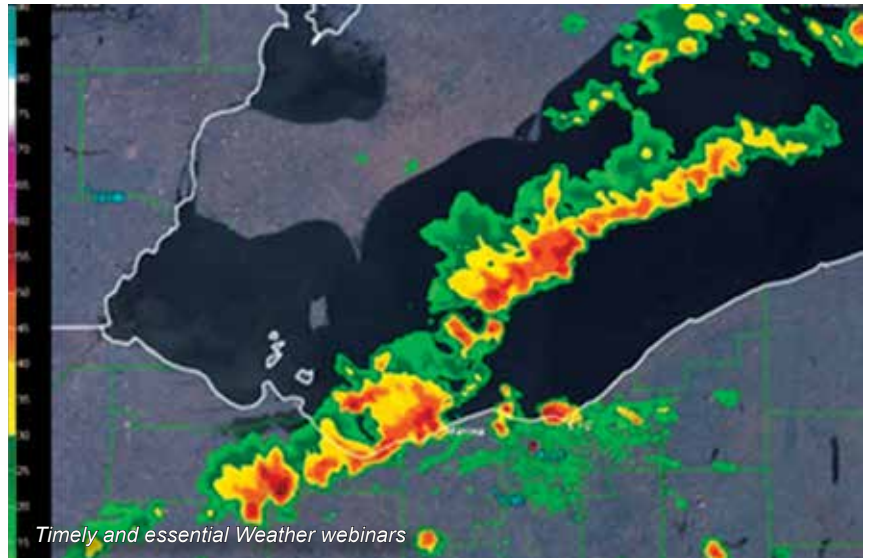
The GLCC is organizing another GLCC Members' Meetup to coincide with the Toronto International Boat Show. Last year's event proved to be a real success with over 50 GLCC members and guests in attendance. Participants expressed enthusiasm to do it again in 2024!

The format will be similar to last year: an informal dinner preceded by a cocktail hour, providing an opportunity for members and guests to mingle and chat.

The event will be at the National Yacht Club, 1 Stadium Road Toronto, Ont. (O-45), on Friday, Jan. 26. Cocktails are from 1830-1930. Pay at the venue; Visa/Mastercard only; no cash accepted). Dinner is from 1930-2100 (prepaid at registration; excellent menu options available). The registration fee is \$60 USD.

Additional details are available on the events page of the GLCC website (<https://www.glccclub.com/2024-glcc-members-meetup-toronto>). Please contact Port Captain Cynthia Sunstrum at [cynthiasunstrum@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiasunstrum@gmail.com) / 613-793-4984 with any questions. 





# GLCCSchool is in full swing, and it's free to club members

By Mark Gagy, GLCC Port Captain & GLCCSchool Committee Chair

As you read this issue of *Lifeline*, last summer's cruising is just a memory. Winter can't pass fast enough. It will soon be time to consider where we might go and what we might do in the 2024 cruising season.

One invaluable resource in that planning is the many and varied webinars offered by the *Great Lakes Cruising Club School*. The *GLCCSchool* has been in full swing since its first webinar of this school year, *An Introduction to Cruising the Great Lakes*, was presented on Nov. 16.

These programs are free to GLCC members.

Rounding out the rest of the early season offerings were *Cooking and Cruising on the Great Lakes*, *Weather Forecasting Apps*, *An Introduction to Marine Diesel Engines* and *The History of Rum*.

Because the school records its webinars, these outstanding presentations are always available for viewing. To find them, visit the school's Recording Library on the website, [glccschool.com](http://glccschool.com).

After a break for the holidays, the *GLCCSchool* will resume live programming with a combination of tried-and-true webinars and expanded class offerings,

including a number of new webinars. Among them: *On the Water Medical Emergency* with Dr. Gail Bowdish, *Marine Communications* with Christian Sandvig, *Getting the Most Out of Your Dinghy* with Jamie Small and *Diving on Great Lakes Shipwrecks* with Ric Mixter.


*GLCCSchool* webinars are free to every GLCC member. These webinars are offered to the general public at \$20 each, making this a great bargain for club members.

To take advantage of these free classes, enroll in the *GLCCSchool*. Here's how:

- Go to the *GLCCSchool* website and click on the Enroll for Free box.
- Look for the highlighted words "Begin the enrollment process here" and click again.
- Fill in the blanks and set up a *GLCCSchool* account.

It's that simple.

Club members have to set up a separate *GLCCSchool* account to protect their security and the security of the club and school. That's why operations of the club and school need to be kept separate and independent.

See you in school! 

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# Escanaba is the place for 2024 Rendezvous

By Lori Sprague

*Escanaba-built trawler, Perseverance, in the moonlight*

The Great Lakes Cruising Club's location for the 2024 Rendezvous is the beautiful harbor of Escanaba, Mich. (M-101). The Rendezvous will be July 14–18. Lori Sprague and Port Captain Marilyn Kinsey are the co-chairwomen of what will be a wonderful opportunity for club members to explore northern Lake Michigan.

Many people know the play, *Escanaba in Da Moonlight*, but this historic Upper Peninsula city is about much more than deer camp.

The unspoiled waterfront and quiet, cozy harbor are a treat for boaters of all types. Well known by fishermen, Escanaba is also sought out by cruisers looking to escape the crowds.

Escanaba's municipal marina offers slips, mooring balls and an anchorage in the south end of the basin. Visitors can bring a bicycle or borrow one from the marina to explore the paved paths along lakefront Ludington Park, which offers concerts, tennis courts and a playground. A short side trip takes one to the municipal beach and Aronson Island, which offers great birding and views of Little Bay de Noc.


History buffs can learn

about the iron and shipping industries at the Sand Point Lighthouse and the Delta County Historical Society next door to the marina. Ludington Street is Escanaba's downtown. The 1864 House of Ludington anchors the east end. The hotel has welcomed many famous guests over the years, including Thomas Edison, John Phillip Sousa and Johnny Cash.

House of Ludington is the venue for the GLCC Commodore's dinner. Many local shops and restaurants are further up Ludington Street. One tip: Be sure to pick up a locally made Yooper Bar at Saykly's Confectionery.

This location is expected to be popular. Early reservations are recommended.

This rendezvous also gives the opportunity to explore Door County, the northern islands (Beaver Island and/or the Manitou Islands) or the "Ritz Tour" (Harbor Springs, Bay Harbor, Charlevoix and/or Petoskey).

For more information, please refer to the Event Calendar or reach out to Lori Sprague, [Imcsprague@gmail.com](mailto:Imcsprague@gmail.com) / 734-223-2841, or Marilyn Kinsey, [mhk630@gmail.com](mailto:mhk630@gmail.com) / 906-233-8641. 



*Freighter off the Escanaba shoreline.  
Photo courtesy City of Escanaba*

# 2024 BOAT SHOWS



General view of the crowds at the Mariner's Marketplace section of the show. Photo by Rear Commodore Dave Spencer

## 2024 Boat Show Schedule

### Progressive Cleveland Boat Show & Fishing Expo

Jan. 18-21

I-X Center

<http://clevelandboatshow.com>

### Toronto International Boat Show

Jan. 19-28

Energare Centre

<http://www.torontoboatshow.com>

### Yachtapalooza

March 16

Crowley's Yacht Yard  
Chicago, Ill.

<https://crowleys.com/>

## Cleveland Boat Show

By Port Captain Heidi Egensperger,  
Cleveland Boat Show Co-Chairperson

The Cleveland Boat Show has been Ohio's largest and longest running boat show for 67 years. It's always been about more than buying your next boating vessel; it's about "celebrating the North Coast Lifestyle."


This year's show is Jan. 18–21 at the IX Center, Cleveland, Ohio (E-10).

GLCC will have a booth to greet current members and invite non-members to learn about the club. The primary purpose at the boat show is to explain all the benefits of GLCC and sign-up new members. Volunteers from the club are needed to work a couple hours in the booth.

The booth shifts are short and the rewards are high. Volunteers get to meet and talk to prospective members about GLCC, and share tall tales with current club members.

Volunteers also get free admission to the boat show work. There will be show exhibits, vendors, educational sessions, food and musical entertainment.

Each volunteer shift at the GLCC booth is 2.5 to 3 hours. Show hours are Thursday and Friday: 1200-2100; Saturday: 1000-2100; and Sunday 1000-1700.

Look for more information via email. Tom Tucker will help with the booth coverage schedule this year. Contact [tucker4399@bex.net](mailto:tucker4399@bex.net) to volunteer for a day and time. Questions? Contact Port Captain Heidi Egensperger at [hkegen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hkegen@sbcglobal.net) or Rear Commodore Jim Ehrman at [jimsmarine@neo.rr.com](mailto:jimsmarine@neo.rr.com). 



# Toronto International Boat Show

By Rear Commodore Dave Spencer


The Great Lakes Cruising Club will be back in 2024 as an exhibitor at the 66th annual Toronto International Boat Show with the club's display booth that debuted to great acclaim last year. The Toronto show returned to an in-person event in 2023, drawing more than 65,000 visitors.

The Jan. 19–28 show, as usual, will be in the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place, in Toronto, Ont. (O-45). The GLCC has participated in the show every year since 2001, including the virtual events in 2021 and 2022 during the pandemic. The GLCC will be one of more than 450 exhibitors expected for the 2024 show. The “Resources and Relationships for Great Lakes Cruising” offered by the GLCC is unique and will be of interest to many of the tens of thousands of visitors.

The website at [www.torontoboatshow.com](http://www.torontoboatshow.com) has information about hotels, exhibitors, seminars and special events. If you live in the Toronto area or plan to visit the show from afar, please consider volunteering at the GLCC exhibit. All GLCC volunteers receive an exhibitor pass that allows free access to the show.

The club has 20 four-hour shifts to fill over the 10 days of the show. It's ideal to have two people staffing the club exhibit all the time but singles are welcome, particularly mid-week when attendance at the show is lighter than the weekends.

The Toronto boat show is a fun way to meet people and chat with like-minded boaters in the middle of the winter about the love of cruising. Although the primary purpose is to sell memberships, there is no “hard sell” expectation for those staffing the club's booth. Once knowledgeable cruisers learn what the GLCC can do for them, and after they meet with our friendly volunteers at the show, many are ready to join. Some sign up on the spot and some think about it at home for a few days before contacting the GLCC office to take advantage of the boat show discount for new members.

Please contact Rear Commodore David Spencer at [spencerdd@gmail.com](mailto:spencerdd@gmail.com) for more information and watch the GLCC website for updates. 

## Yachtapalooza, Chicago

By Rear Commodore Thom Serafine

The Great Lakes Cruising Club will again have a presence at Yachtapalooza, a one-day boat show on Chicago's south side. This annual event draws several hundred attendees from Chicagoland and as far away as Milwaukee.


Yachtapalooza is March 16 at Crowley's Yacht Yard, E 95th Street, Chicago, Ill. (M-37). The show is open to the public, free to attend and promises another solid lineup of exhibitors and seminars.

As in previous years, the GLCC is looking for members to volunteer to staff the club's booth. Volunteers will talk about their favorite pastime and explain the benefits of joining the GLCC to prospective new members as well as with other club members. The club is also working with show organizers for a spot for one of the seminars.

Director Julie Thorndycraft's presentation on cruising the North Channel generated a lot of interest previously and was an excellent opportunity to showcase the club.

Boat shows are one of the major sources of new members for the GLCC. Yachtapalooza is always a successful event. None of this can happen without members staffing the booth.

Special thanks go to GLCC members who have volunteered in the past, providing a great example of how GLCC members are ready and willing to help each other.

For more information, or to sign up as a volunteer staffer or presenter, contact Rear Commodore Thom Serafine at [thom.serafine@gmail.com](mailto:thom.serafine@gmail.com); 773-420-8918. 



Toronto GLCC booth in 2023 staffed by Port Captain Kathy Spencer (L) and Jen Spencer (R). Photo by Rear Commodore Dave Spencer



# Annual meeting gives members reasons to look forward to 2024

By Rear Commodore Rob Hillman: Photos courtesy Port Captain Kelly Hillman and Rear Commodore (Ret.) Mark Lifter

The historic St. Clair Inn in St. Clair, Mich. (D-8), hosted the 2023 Annual General Membership Meeting, where more than 70 Great Lakes Cruising Club members, spouses and significant others gathered Oct. 27–28.

The event started Friday evening in the Inn’s Prohibition Bar, an updated speakeasy reminiscent of a time when the sale and consumption of alcohol in the U.S. was outlawed. Such was not the case on this night, as members toasted friends old and new. Sipping their favorite libations, members traded Great Lakes cruising stories while sampling hearty hors d’oeuvres from roving platters—including crab cakes, prime rib sliders, spring rolls and mini twice-baked potatoes.

Saturday began with board meetings for both GLCC and the Great Lakes Foundation. Board members and guests heard from Rear Commodores and committee persons. A few of their updates:

- The club will once again be a strong presence at the Toronto International Boat Show, Jan. 19–28. We have an excellent booth, and the show is a major Toronto event, attracting 65,000 to 70,000 visitors. Members should contact Rear Commodores Dave Spencer or Eric Sunstrum to volunteer. Port Captain Cynthia Sunstrum is again organizing the 2024 GLCC Members’ Meetup, that will include cocktails and a sit-down dinner at The National Yacht Club in Toronto, Ont. (O-45).

- Membership trends remain consistent. With few exceptions, the numbers have not increased significantly. At the end of the year, the organization is down 64 from last year at this time.

- The 2023-24 *GLCCSchool* year began live webinar programming on Nov. 16, with Craig Murchison’s *Introduction to Cruising the Great Lakes*. This will be the school’s 13th season, with the school on target to present 43 webinars, all of which will be free for members.

- The April Launch will be in Bay City, Mich. (H-61), this year. Mark your calendar for April 19–21. Look for an update from Event Chairperson & GLCC Director Christine Moore Skrocki.

- Great Lakes Foundation grants were approved for two recipients: The Friends of Plum and Pilot Island to help restore the Plum Island Range Light and Friends of PBS Wisconsin to fund the TV production *Wisconsin Lighthouses*.

In the afternoon, 40+ members attended a unique *GLCCSchool* event in the Holden Conference Room. Commodore Doug Jackson welcomed the group and reinforced the exciting new member benefit: free *GLCCSchool* classes.

*GLCCSchool* coordinator & GLCC Port Captain Mark Gagy explained how to enroll and sign up for classes, and apply the discount coupon that makes all classes free for



members. Rear Commodore Dave Spencer presented a “mini school” in front of the live audience – an abbreviated and updated *Cruising Northern Georgian Bay* lecture featuring new photographs from this past summer’s cruising and hard-to-find anchorages.

This year’s Founders Award winners Brian Monrad and Cathie MacDonald presented *All-electric Sailboat Cruises Ontario Waterway*. Brian covered “range anxiety” and route planning as he documented their “no fossil fuel” 240 NM journey aboard their electric motor powered sailboat, *Cattitude*.

Then it was *60 Minutes*-style interviews by Port Captain Kelly Hillman where the audience heard short adventure stories from Commodore Doug Jackson, Director Mark Lifter, Treasurer Niels and Vicky Jensen, Director (Ret.) Bill Rohde and his wife Judy, and marine historian and author Ric Mixer.

Later that evening, the 2023 GLCC & GLF Annual General Membership Meetings were held prior to the dinner meeting and were well attended. A brief overview of the current status of the GLCC & the GLF was given by the Flag Officers followed by the elections of the GLCC officers for 2024.

The meetings were adjourned and the dinner-time emcee, Rear Commodore Rob Hillman welcomed all attendees. The Rev. (and GLCC Port Captain) Sue Camaio-re gave the invocation. Toasts to the King and the U.S. president were given by Past Commodore Jim “Bullfrog” Richlak and Rear Commodore Dave Spencer.

The evening program began with introductions by Rob Hillman. Doug Jackson presented several awards:

- William J. Kivell Memorial Award (for outstanding Port Captain), to Port Captain Dee McClure.

- Founders Award (for best Great Lakes cruising log), to Cathie MacDonald and Brian Monrad.
- Three Admiral Bayfield Awards (for members cruising at least 5,000 nautical miles in the Great Lakes, including significant distance into each of the five Great Lakes), to Port Captains Victor and Susan Camaio-re, John and Linda Forbes, and Mike and Deb Hervey.
- Three Awards of Appreciation were given to the outgoing Directors, Ken Kabb, Mark Lifter and Andrew Wright for their many years of dedicated service to the Great Lakes Cruising Club.
- The prestigious Award of Merit was given to Mark Lifter for his long time of service to the GLCC, as a Port Captain, Director, Rear Commodore, and especially leading last year’s eMarketing Committee. A well-deserved award.

Guest speaker Ric Mixer -- the most requested maritime historian in the Midwest -- gave members a new appreciation for our unique inland-sea history, through his spellbinding *The Edmund Fitzgerald Investigations*. His talk included video from Captain Cooper of the *Arthur M. Anderson*, who was behind the *Fitzgerald* in that fatal 1975 storm. It also included video and VHF radio traffic between Cooper and the U.S. Coast Guard. The audience was captivated as Ric showed video he’d taken of the *Fitzgerald* in the depths of Lake Superior and described the most likely cause of the tragedy.

Thanks go to Rear Commodore Rob Hillman and Presque Isle Port Captain Kelly Hillman for organizing the event. Thanks also go to Office Manager Yvonne Murray, Lynn Blanchard, and Graphic Designer Cindy Badley for their logistical support before, during and after the weekend’s events. 🚩



## Turns out the gang's all here at North Channel gathering

By Rear Commodore David Spencer

*Appetizers on the rocks with the fleet in the background*

Eagle Island, Ont. (NC-25) was the site of an informal gathering of Great Lakes Cruising Club members July 27 and 28. At least 24 GLCC boats converged on this popular North Channel anchorage for a couple of days of socializing.

Although Eagle Island is a large anchorage, Fleet Captain Cheryl Cheger-Timm's *Meretricious* took an extensive tour weaving through the fleet looking for a good place to anchor. Cheryl later clarified that she wasn't searching for a place to anchor but was "inspecting the fleet" and who's to doubt her?

Activities kicked off Thursday afternoon with shared appetizers. Spots to beach the dinghy on the rocky shore were at a premium as a smorgasbord of hors d'oeuvres grew larger and larger as each dinghy arrived. The small point on the southeast shore where people gathered looks to be relatively flat rock from the water, but it's just as rugged as the rest of the North Channel.

The uneven terrain didn't deter anyone from enjoying the food and chatting with old friends and new acquaintances. The next morning, many gathered ashore for coffee on the rocks while listening to Honorary GLCC Member Roy Eaton's Little Current Cruisers' Net broadcast on VHF.

Some boats departed on Friday to avoid the northeast wind that was forecast to come up overnight. Northeast is the one angle where Eagle Island offers minimal protection. But most stayed and enjoyed a day of socializing by dinghy topped off with a shoreside potluck dinner.

Thanks go to Rod Munro and Alison Brown of *Brava 1* and Melissa Spillenkothen of *Sonador* for conceiving and organizing this gathering.

There was no registration and no fee. Although it was only lightly promoted, attendance was strong. The consensus was in favor of similar informal events in the future, likely in addition to the traditional Wilderness Rally expected to return to the North Channel for 2024. 🚩



*Dinghies converged for coffee on the rocks*



# Lake Erie Rally looks back to the 60s for a groovy time

The “Psychedelic Sixties” are coming to Middle Bass Island, Ohio (E-18.5), June 13–16 for the 30th+ annual GLCC Lake Erie Rally.

Peace, love and music will be jamming all weekend. Sixties trivia, far-out games, groovy music, fab food and outta-sight decorations will make this event a real gas. “Ride” the hippie bus with your crew, score points playing with “rainbow” mushrooms, help our special “Rally hippies” crowd surf and more. Sixties dances, including The Twist, The Swim, and The Locomotion will take over the dance floor on Saturday night to some popular Sixties music.

Those attending are encouraged to wear their Sixties threads: tie-dyed clothes, sandals, beads, bell bottoms, mini skirts, go-go boots, long hair, flower power and more. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Plan to “power your pad” into the MBI State Park Marina for a three-night hippie fest. Can you dig it? Stay in the groove and mark your calendars now for this awesome event.

Watch the GLCC website on the events page and in the spring Lifeline for more vibes. Any questions? Don’t freak out! Please contact your event chairs Dave and Lori Guertal at [dlguert@gmail.com](mailto:dlguert@gmail.com) or 330-224-7813.

Plan on hanging loose, donning your shades, catching some rays, and join all the hunks and skirts for the most wildly hip party on Lake Erie in 2024. It’ll be a blast! 🌈

# Lake Superior rallyers find Houghton-Hancock a spot to remember

By GLCC Treasurer / Past Commodore  
Niels R. Jensen,



Sandpiper in the setting sun at Houghton-Hancock



Members relaxing on the boat



Director Jim Egensperger entertains at the Copper Range Depot

The GLCC Lake Superior Rally was Aug. 4–6 at Houghton-Hancock (S-200) on Michigan's huge Keweenaw Peninsula.

This was the first time Houghton-Hancock hosted a Lake Superior Rally, thanks to some major structural improvements to the Houghton City Dock. The harbor project included new 30- and 50-amp electrical service, water, and WiFi along some sections of the wharf.

It was a highly convenient and lively location, with nearby free entertainment and easy access to many downtown shops and restaurants.

Most of the members' boats came across the lake from the Apostle Islands a day or two before to avoid adverse weather. Others trailered their boat or traveled by car.

Unfortunately, the City of Houghton has yet to declare this part of the Keweenaw Waterway as a slow/no-wake zone. The wake action along some parts of the wharf was more bothersome than expected, sometimes becoming excessive during the day.

If a slow/no-wake zone was established along the main part of the wharf, Houghton-Hancock might be a more attractive site for a GLCC Rendezvous.

Registration for the rally began Friday. Attendees went as a group to the Ambassador restaurant, a block from the City Dock, and known for its first-rate pizza. It also is noted for its German-style, hand-painted murals.

Saturday's program began with a plated breakfast at the charming Copper Range Depot, which is extensively decorated with railroad memorabilia. After the meal, members explored the many attractions in Houghton-Hancock and the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Among the sites: the Quincy Mine, Eagle Harbor, Copper Harbor, and Brockway Mountain Drive.

Port Captains met that afternoon at the waterfront's

gazebo. Duluth, Minn. (S-187), was chosen as a strong contender for the 2024 GLCC Lake Superior Mid-Winter Dinner and Lake Superior Rally.

Members also were informed about Keweenaw harbors, specifically about the recently completed renovation of the Eagle Harbor, Mich. (S-204), dock facilities, long in serious need of improvement. The photos and detailed information about this major project have been forwarded to the Harbor Reports' editors.

At the social hour at the Copper Range Depot, Director Jim Egensperger played guitar and sang several songs from the GLCC Songbook, which is available for download on the club's website.

Mary Marchaterre and Dave Nitz were recognized for providing visiting boats with a jar of Upper Peninsula's unique thimbleberry jam.

After the evening's whitefish dinner, John Vucetich read from his insightful book, *Restoring the Balance: What Wolves tell us about our Relationship with Nature*.

He has spent some 25 years studying the wolves and their prey in the boreal forest of Isle Royale. He is the long-running research project's lead investigator. His book is available on Amazon.

The evening program wrapped up the drawing of GLCC coffee mugs as door prizes.

On Sunday, rally attendees ate breakfast at the Copper Range Depot, using GLCC coupons towards the cost of their meals.

After, some went west to the yachting center of the Apostle Islands, Wis. (S-191), some went east to historic Copper Harbor, Mich. (S-207), and some went north to the wilderness of Isle Royale National Park, Mich. (S-150), again proving Houghton-Hancock position as a convenient crossroad of Lake Superior. 🚩



*Fishing Derby Champions Tammy and Paul Beelien (L) from Latitude Adjustment with Jen Spencer (R). Photo by Sandra Dodgson*

# Georgian Bay Rally turns ‘Gone Fishin’ into a fun weekend

*By Rear Commodore Dave Spencer*

A group of Great Lakes Cruising Club boaters gathered at Shotgun Cove (GB-28.5) in the spectacular Massasauga Provincial Park on the last weekend of August for the first Georgian Bay Rally since 2019.

To encourage boaters to attend after such a long absence, this was a no-fee, no-registration event. Shotgun Cove, along with a few other designated anchorages in the Massasauga, has a “Boater Gathering Area” complete with a dinghy dock, picnic tables and a fire pit. Activities kicked off on an idyllic Friday evening with a meet-and-greet happy hour with shared hors d’oeuvres and lively conversation.

The strong wind forecast for the day kept away a few boats, but Friday brought nothing but a pleasant light breeze in the protected anchorage. Overnight rain that persisted into Saturday put a damper on a gathering for coffee, but the skies cleared by noon just in time for afternoon activities.

The theme of the rally was “Fishing Derby.” There were some fishy games and lots of GLCC-themed prizes.

A staple of GLCC get-togethers is “Gadget Hour” at which boaters show their inventions, acquisitions and ideas to make for better boating. There were lots of great ideas and products presented, with useful conversations about each.

A potluck feast was laid out on the picnic tables. A campfire followed, until we were visited by a park staff boat who advised that the shore facilities closed for the evening at 1900 (Who knew?)

An enjoyable weekend was capped with several members asking about next year’s rally.

Thanks go to Port Captain Kathy Spencer and Jen Spencer for planning activities and prizes and for running the games. 🚩



*Happy Hour at Shotgun Cove. Photo by Rear Commodore David Spencer*

# HARBOR INSIDER

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The hundreds of harbors around the Great Lakes are unique in different ways. "Harbor Insider" is a feature for *Lifeline* that gives new visitors to a harbor some information that isn't typically included in the GLCC Harbor Reports or other resources. These reports are accurate as of the time they were written. Things change season to season. Please check ahead with local sites if you're planning a visit.

To submit a Harbor Insider for consideration, please follow this broad format. Include any topics you wish about places to do and things to do at your harbor. Email Harbor Insiders to: editor.glcc.gk@gmail.com. Please copy Yvonne at glclub@att.net, and Cindy at designerglcc@yahoo.com.

-Garth Kriewall, Lifeline Editor



US Coast Guard Station



Sailing Classes



Port of Rochester, New York, (O-6). Photo courtesy Port of Rochester Marina

## Rochester, New York, USA (O-6) Rochester in upstate New York has much to offer its visitors

By Port Captain Dan Kerpelman

Rochester is the largest city on the south Lake Ontario shore and offers many fun and interesting reasons to weigh anchor and visit when cruising the region.

### Where do I dock?

You'll most likely dock at the Rochester Yacht Club or one of the numerous facilities near the mouth of the Genesee River. The Rochester Yacht Club is a welcoming club with a recently renovated pool and deck. The basin is in the midst of a makeover, replacing fixed docks with floating ones. There's always a good atmosphere at the bar, and the restaurant offers a great view of boat traffic coming in and out of Lake Ontario via the Genesee River.

### Stretch your legs:

Within a few miles' walk or bike ride on the east side of the Genesee River is the Durand Eastman Park with great hiking trails, ponds, and wild-life, as well as a nice public golf course. Schooners at Shumway Marina is always a fun outdoor burger bar on the river, often with live music.

### Head to the west side of town:

On the west side of the river is Chili Beach. It's a throwback to the 1950s when it was a popular tourist destination with hot dog and custard stands. More recently, the Port of Rochester, built for the fast ferry to Toronto, has become a fun spot with numerous restaurants, live music, and bars. There are also good restaurants along Lake Avenue. One of my favorites for a casual meal in an historical setting is Hose 22, a nice restaurant in a restored 1916 fire station.

### A city on the rebound:

Unlike most Great Lakes cities, Rochester is technically not on the Great Lakes. It's about 8 miles inland. Although Rochester has struggled following the decline of Eastman Kodak and Xerox, the city's premier employers in their heyday, the economy has survived thanks to many smaller businesses leveraging the intellectual capital those companies left behind.

### Neighborhoods include history and art:

The stretch of East Avenue between Alexander Street and Culver Avenue is a wonderful walk for those who enjoy historic mansions, not least of which is the George Eastman House. The George Eastman House is now



a fascinating museum, especially if you like photography, but also just to learn about one of the most iconic companies in American history and its founder. One block north of East Avenue is the Memorial Art Gallery, noteworthy for its Italian Renaissance-style architecture, and its permanent and rotating collections. The neighborhood south of East Avenue down to Park Avenue has beautiful homes, and Park Avenue has many excellent ethnic restaurants and interesting boutiques.

**Home of Susan B. Anthony:**

History buffs will enjoy the Susan B. Anthony House, a museum celebrating the many achievements of this famous Rochester woman who was pivotal in the women’s suffrage movement and influential in other areas of equality, including the abolition of slavery.


**Take in a public market:**

If you are in Rochester on a Saturday morning, don’t miss the Rochester Public Market. This indoor / outdoor market is a fun place to people-watch. Much of the Rochester community gathers there on Saturday and the atmosphere is lively. More than 300 vendors offer produce, meats, seafoods, and ethnic delicacies. An array of independent local cafés, food stands, coffee shops, specialty food purveyors, breweries and retail shops dot the Market District.

**A few dining recommendations:**

Some of my favorite restaurants include Cure (French), Fiorella (Italian) and Velvet Belly (seafood). You might catch a Rochester Red Wings game at Frontier Field. Until recently, the Red Wings was a farm team for the Minnesota Twins, perhaps another way in which the Great Lakes are connected.

**Visit the Erie Canal and more:**

To the south of the city is the Erie Canal. The mule path along the canal is now a popular trail for walking, jogging, biking, and rollerblading. In particular, the historical port town of Pittsford is a great hangout. Schoen Place along the canal boasts numerous restaurants, microbreweries and street musicians. Fairport, Ohio (E-7) is another Erie Canal port town worth a visit. Side trips within a few hours’ drive of Rochester include: The idyllic Finger Lakes and their award-winning vineyards; Ithaca, home to Cornell University and Ithaca College; Corning, home of the Corning Glass Museum; and Watkins Glen State Park. 



Port of Rochester



## Dinner meeting caps another boating season on Lake Erie


*By Rear Commodore Jim Ehrman*

The 2023 Lake Erie Regional Dinner meeting was Sept. 16 at the prestigious Cleveland Yachting Club in Rocky River, Ohio (E-11). Thirty-one members attended. Thanks go to Port Captain Ed Mahoney for organizing the event.

The menu was Lake Erie surf and turf perch, chicken, strip loin, and all the trimmings. Cocktails were served as some of the group watched Ohio State defeat Western Kentucky, while others walked the docks at CYC.

Throughout, there was lively discussion about the many successful events hosted in Region 53 this past year. Commodore Doug Jackson and I thanked the many members who participated and volunteered to ensure the success of these events.

2024 Lake Erie Rally hosts Dave and Lori Guertal announced the theme of next year’s Lake Erie Rally in a fun-filled presentation of peace, love and tie-dyed glasses. “Psychedelic Sixties” will be coming to Middle Bass Island, Ohio (E-18.5), June 13–16.

This traditional dinner was a fitting end to a wonderful Region 53 boating season on Lake Erie. 





# WELCOME ABOARD!



We welcome these new members to the fellowship  
of the Great Lakes Cruising Club:

**Mitchell Avis &  
Danielle Allen**  
Midland, Ont.  
*ESCAPE ROUTE II*

**John & Lisa Bakken**  
Little Sturgeon Bay, Wis.  
*SELAH*

**John Bartlett &  
Paula Dupuy**  
Hamilton, Ont.  
*SEAFOX VI*

**Richard Bek & Val Harpel**  
Traverse City, Mich.  
*DUET*

**Scott & Suzette Blair**  
Traverse City, Mich.  
*JUNIPER*

**Dirk & Kathy Buttke**  
St. Ignace, Mich.  
*WINDLESS*

**Donna & William Caruthers**  
Sandusky, Ohio  
*SWIFTWIND*

**James Colby &  
Joanne Harney**  
Red Rock, Ont.  
*CROW'S NEST*

**Alex & Karen Dade**  
Vermilion, Ohio  
*CAVU*

**Lori & Mike Dekeyser**  
Kenosha, Wis.  
*DEVOCEAN*

**Ashley & Tim Flintoff**  
Detroit, Mich.  
*SIRIUS*

**Brian & Susan Foster**  
Duncan Bay, Mich.  
*EASY RIDER*

**David & Patricia Grant**  
Charlevoix, Mich.  
*ARGO*

**Kris & Jack Hamilton**  
Muskegon, Mich.  
*NC-11*

**Jeff & Ann Hammill**  
Warton, Ont.  
*RENROD*

**Patrick & Diana Hooyman**  
Pentwater, Mich.  
*AHOY MON JR*

**Leon & Erin Irish**  
Wye Harithage Marina, Ont.  
*PEETRICHOR*

**Douglas & Mary Kay Keith**  
Bay City, Mich.  
*BANZAI IV*

**Heather Lockwood &  
Bob Clark**  
Sutton's Bay, Mich.  
*YANKEE*

**Max Mikhailov**  
Midland, Ont.  
*VOLGA*

**Graham & Beth Mowry**  
Holland Harbor &  
Macatawa, Mich.  
*KNOTSOFAST*

**Ryan & Kelley Neal**  
Port Clinton, Ohio  
*CAT ZASS*

**John & Kevie Newman**  
Live Aboard Cruisers  
in Lakes Michigan & Huron  
*REGULAR EGGS*

**Kevin & Karen Phillips**  
Saugatuck, Mich.  
*BARLEY FITS*

**Mike & Lori Pickette**  
Live Aboard Cruisers  
in Lake Michigan  
*PICKETT'S PUB*

**John Price &  
Kari Simonetti**  
Erie, Pa.  
*ETE*

**Steve & Sharon Ranson**  
Midland, Ont.  
*NEW ERA*

**John & Felicia Regan**  
St. Augsstine, Fla.  
*WINE DOWN*

**Peter & Kim Squier**  
Great Loop  
*SQUIER ABOUT*

**Robert & Susan Thayer**  
Charlevoix, Mich.  
*GEORGIAN BLUE*

**Ken & Coleen Ulrich**  
Egg Harbor, Wis.  
*MURPHY'S LAW*

**James & Leslie Wilkins**  
Live Aboard Cruisers  
in Georgian Bay &  
North Channel  
*JOLLY ROGER, TOO*



Photos L to R: Karen & Alex  
Dade, CAVU; Ashley & Tim  
Flintoff, SIRIUS; John Bartlett  
& Paula Dupuy, SEAFOX VI

# Eight Bells

## Leslie Aubé

Leslie Aubé, wife of Rear Commodore (Ret.) Roland Aubé, passed recently. She was a great supporter of the GLCC and donated several beautiful paintings for Rendezvous Raffles.

At her request, Leslie's remains were cremated. There will be no funeral service. A celebration on life was held in September at Elliot Lake.

## Hart Harding, Port Captain (Ret.)


Hart Harding and his wife, Sherry, joined the Great Lakes Cruising Club in 1996. Hart was the Port Captain for Cleveland, Ohio (E-10) from 2000-2016. Hart and Sherry lived aboard their boat, *Scampi* in the Duncan Bay Boat Club from May through September, then in their home in Bluffton, South Carolina. He died Oct. 1, 2023.

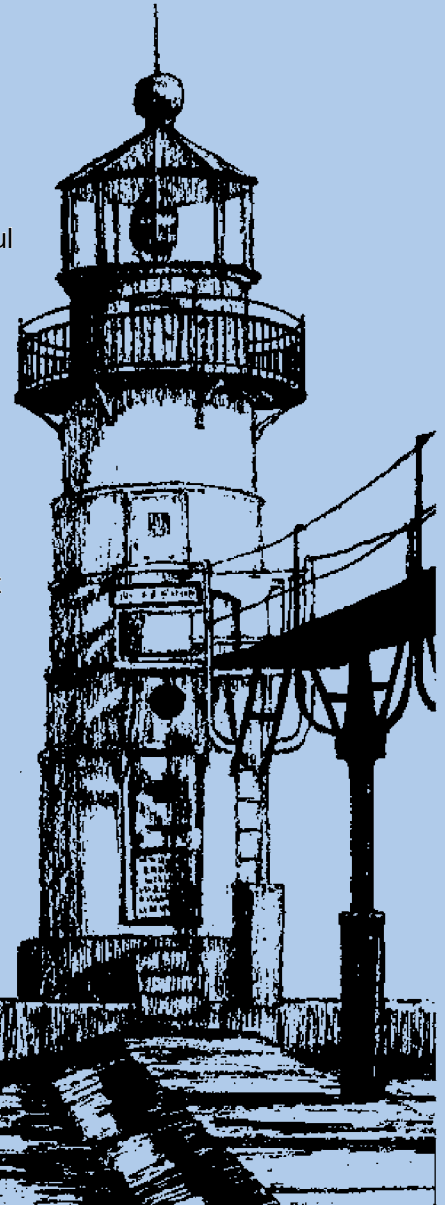
A celebration of life will be held the summer of 2024 at Duncan Bay Boat Club in Cheboygan, Michigan. Cards of sympathy may be sent to Sherry at: Sherry Harding, Apt. 42, 122 Medina Road, Medina, OH 44256-9664.

## Lee Stahl, Port Captain

Lee Stahl passed away on July 26, 2023. Lee and his wife, Susan, joined the Great Lakes Cruising Club in 1977.

He was appointed Port Captain of New Buffalo, Michigan (M-27.5) in 1995. It was a position he held until he passed away. They were generous supporters of the Great Lakes Foundation for many years.

Condolences may be sent to Susan at [leeastahl@gmail.com](mailto:leeastahl@gmail.com). Lee's obituary may be found at [starksfamilyfh.com](http://starksfamilyfh.com). 



## Port Captain's Logbook



## Port Captains Ellie & Dennis Schurdell

Port Clinton, Ohio  
(E-20)


Denny Schurdell has been a life-long teacher. He is retired as a visual arts teacher, K-12 and college. He coached for many years in wrestling, cross country and soccer.

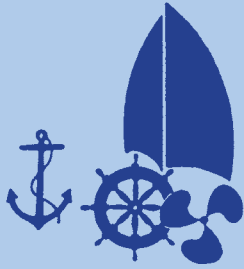
Denny has degrees from Kent State University, La Verne College, and Cleveland State University.

He belongs to the Sandusky Yacht Club, and is a former member of Bay Point Yacht Club and Harbor Bay Yacht Club. He is a founder of the former Catalina sailboat association-LECOA (Lake Erie Catalina Owners Association).

He has been a sailor since 1980, with a Sirius 21, Catalina 25, Catalina 320.

He and his wife, Ellie, sail a Tartan 3700 hull No. 15.

The Schurdells enjoy photography and film making. They have sailed on lakes Erie, Michigan, Huron and Ontario. 



# Member to Member Ads

Member-to-Member classified advertisements are available free to GLCC members on the GLCC website (<https://www.glclub.com/forums/ads>). Ads are reserved solely for personal boats, boat-related gear, and cruising activities such as boat-swaps. No commercial sales, please. For listing details or to place an ad, visit [glclub.com/forums/ads](https://www.glclub.com/forums/ads). Or go to the website, then click on the "Discussion" link at the top of the page and scroll down to "Ads." Members advertising items are asked to remove their ad from the site when the item is no longer available.



### Mariner Pilothouse 38 For Sale

*Velissa*. <https://www.boats.com/sailing-boats/1980-mariner-pilothouse-sloop-83456> She is in the water at Toledo Beach if you or have a friend who is interested. Contact Walt Grabowski 419-324-9718 / [wdgrabowski@aol.com](mailto:wdgrabowski@aol.com)

**Chris Craft 362** double cabin Catalina, 1987, in excellent condition. Fresh water/boathouse kept; 350 Crusader engines; 1600 hrs; full galley; 2 heads with sinks and showers; Garmin GPS Map; canvas bridge enclosure. Contact Ned Bromm at 419-366-4279 / [nedsha@aol.com](mailto:nedsha@aol.com)



**1992 Nimble Arctic + trailer** \$24,000. For local buyer, 2023 slip fees and winter storage fees at Hilton Beach will be paid by seller. Contact Steve Leonard at 919-260-.9737 / [steveleonard@earthlink.net](mailto:steveleonard@earthlink.net)



## Great Lakes Cruising Club

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2024**

**Jan. 26**

Toronto Members' Meetup  
National Yacht Club in Toronto  
Harbour, Ont. (O-45)  
Port Captain Cynthia Sunstrum  
613-793-4984 / [cynthiasunstrum@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiasunstrum@gmail.com)  
Rear Commodore Eric Sunstrum  
613-793-4982 / [ericssunstrum@gmail.com](mailto:ericssunstrum@gmail.com)

**Jan. 18-21**

Progressive Cleveland Boat Show  
IX Center Cleveland Hopkins Airport, Ohio  
Port Captain Heidi Egensperger  
440-527-3816 / [hkegen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hkegen@sbcglobal.net)  
Rear Commodore Jim Ehrman  
330-697-8878 / [jimsmarine@neo.rr.com](mailto:jimsmarine@neo.rr.com)

**Jan. 19-28**

Toronto International Boat Show  
Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place  
Toronto, Ont.  
Rear Commodore Dave Spencer  
519-520-1399 / [spencerdd@gmail.com](mailto:spencerdd@gmail.com)

**March 16**

Yachtapalooza  
Crowley's Yacht Yard, Chicago, Ill.  
Rear Commodore Thom Serafine  
773-420-8918 / [thom.serafine@gmail.com](mailto:thom.serafine@gmail.com)

**April 19-21**

Spring Launch Weekend  
Bay City, Mich. (H-61)  
Christine Moore Skrocki  
989-245-3343 / [skrocknest@aol.com](mailto:skrocknest@aol.com)

**Great Lakes Cruising Club**

810-984-4500 • [glclub@att.net](mailto:glclub@att.net)  
[www.glclub.com](http://www.glclub.com)



42° 58' 30.28" N | 82° 25' 26.26" W



Donate to the Great Lakes Foundation this holiday season!  
<https://www.glclub.com/donation/donate-great-lakes-foundation>



## Port captains needed to share knowledge with other boaters

We need port captains. Here's why: One of the great things about the Great Lakes Cruising Club is the knowledge of our members. The club was founded by people who were willing to share that knowledge and help fellow cruisers enjoy their time on the Great Lakes.

That tradition continues today in both formal and informal ways. One of the best ways you can continue this legacy is by acting as a port captain.

Port captains help fellow GLCC members by sharing their local knowledge. Port captains answer questions on the best harbor facilities, hidden anchorages, services and even restaurants in their areas.

Currently, the GLCC is looking to replace a long-standing GLCC member who is retiring as Port Captain in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The club also is adding a port captain in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more, please contact Rear Commodore Thom Serafine at [thom.serafine@gmail.com](mailto:thom.serafine@gmail.com) or 773-420-8918.

## GLCC Ship Store



Dog Scarves



Clothing



GLCC Pendants



Tote Bags



Wine Glasses



Pocket Knives



Cup Coolers



Tumblers



Surgeon Hattings



**Shop NOW!**  
<https://www.glclub.com/catalog>



SEASONAL SHOPPING