

February 2026



**GREAT LAKES
CRUISING CLUB**

Lifeline
A member newsletter

Exploring the Keweenaw Waterway's Houghton-Hancock



This part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula offers a memorable blend of scenery, history and cruising opportunities and is a great stop when enroute to the 2026 Rendezvous.

[Click here to learn more](#)

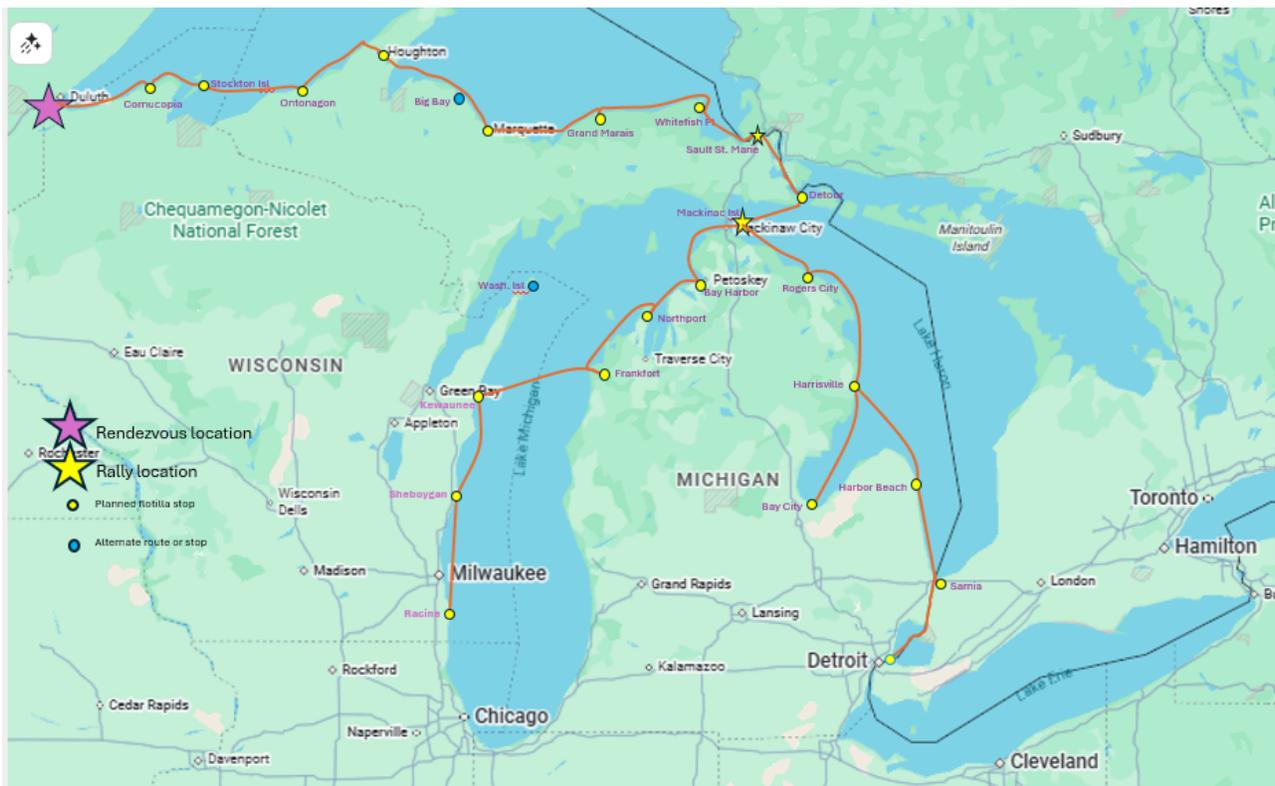
GLCC 2026 Events

Start making your summer cruising plans! GLCC has these scheduled events across the Great Lakes, with more to come. Each offers special places, special times and meeting lifelong friends. Check out the events below.

| Upcoming Events * | Dates | Location |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| April Launch and Board of Directors Meeting | April 10-12 | Grand Bend, ON |
| Lake Erie Rally | June 12-14 | Middle Bass Island, OH (E-18.5) |
| Mac Island Rally | June 22-25 | Mackinac Island, MI (H-77) |
| Rally at the Soo | June 26-29 | Sault St. Marie, MI (S-230) |
| 2026 Rendezvous | July 10-14 | Superior, WI (S-188) |
| Post-Rendezvous Flotilla to North Shore of Lake Superior | Starts July 14 | Departs from Superior, WI (S-188) |
| Balloons Over Bay Harbor | Sept 11-13 | Bay Harbor, MI (M-5.5) |

*More events to be added - check back often!

[Click here to learn more](#)



Day tripping to Lake Superior

Club flotillas are now being organized from lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie and create the opportunity for a series of day or long weekend trips. They make cruising to the Mac Island Rally, Rally at the Soo or this year's Lake Superior Rendezvous easier and more fun. As part of a flotilla, members can "hop on and hop off" anywhere. We'll be walking through the route and stops on the GLCCSchool webinar on March 5. Take this unique opportunity to cruise to new locales with fellow GLCC members.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Rendezvous '26: Lake Superior as you've never imagined it

This year's Rendezvous promises to be an exceptional event. The GLCC website has more details about what's being planned, as well as links to register. Check out information on flotillas formed for cruising up to Lake Superior with fellow GLCC members above.

[Click here to learn more](#)



FROM THE BRIDGE Commodore Joe McKeown

SUMMER IS COMING, GUARANTEED: Happy February everyone. I'm hopeful the weather begins its turn toward warmer spring conditions in the next few weeks. As I write this, the ice bridge from Mackinac Island to St. Ignace, MI, is frozen, and the Great Lakes ice cover remains above the historical average. Karen and I look forward to seeing you at Rendezvous 2026 at the Twin Ports of Duluth-Superior, whether you arrive by car, boat, floatplane, freighter or, well, whatever. Meanwhile, let me offer a few thoughts about the coming season ...

[Click here to learn more](#)

Beat the winter blues with GLCCSchool's new offerings

Late February and March's GLCCSchool lineup is impressive. It includes seminars to introduce the beauty and majesty of cruising the North Channel, Lake Huron, Lake Superior's spectacular Apostle Islands and Isle Royale, this summer's Flotilla in addition to The Triangle Loop and Down East Loop. Informational webinars include a 4-part Marine Diesel Maintenance series, and 3-part Great Lakes Weather series. The GLCCSchool has something for everyone, whether participating in a live webinar or enjoying the recording later. GLCCSchool classes are free to members. Check out the latest GLCCSchool offerings here.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Our GLCCSchool instructors earned their skills first-hand

This month's featured GLCCSchool instructors have deep experience attained over decades of boating. They share their knowledge of the good, the bad and the exceptional in webinars free to Club members. Learn their tips on where to go, how



April Launch: Register now for Grand Bend, ON

Join fellow GLCC members on April 10-12 for the annual April Launch event and Board meeting at the beautiful Oakwood Resort in Grand Bend, ON.

to get there, and how to avoid or fix any problems along the way.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



S'no problem in Toronto for International Boat Show

Thousands worked through the snow and cold to attend the Toronto International Boat Show, where Club members talked up the GLCC and made presentations on the wonders of the Great Lakes.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Muck issues? A testy Diesel? Check out what we learned

One of the benefits of attending boat shows is the opportunity to have in-depth discussions with vendors: getting guidance on technical boating issues, and learning about new gadgets. Here's some of what we learned at the Toronto International Boat Show.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Join the GLCC! Initiation fee waived for Feb.

Like the camaraderie and events you are seeing? Join the GLCC and expand your boating friends and adventures! The \$90 initiation fee is waived thru March making joining the



Join us in welcoming newest GLCC members

Please welcome our latest club members into the GLCC community. If you don't know them already, you soon will.

GLCC even more attractive. Take advantage of this opportunity to join in on the fun and cruising!

[Click here to learn more](#)

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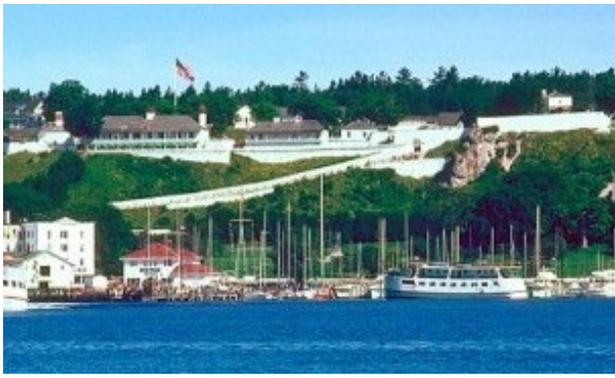


Have some great cruising photos from 2025?

Enter your best one in our contest

Hit us with your best shot ... cruising shot that is. Share your best 2025 cruising picture and show off some of the unique harbors, anchorages, people or scenery the Great Lakes have to offer. Entry deadline for the GLCC's first Best Cruising Photo contest is March 31. Click below for full details.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Save the date and make reservations now for Mackinac Island Rally

Plan on joining fellow GLCC members at Michigan's historic Mackinac Island June 22-25. If coming by car, make your hotel reservations today! Registration and event schedule to follow.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Sept 11-13 Reserve dockage now for Balloons over Bay Harbor

Docking reservations at Bay Harbor Lake (MI) Marina for Balloons over Bay Harbor ([M-5.5](#)) can now be made. This popular event features multiple hot air balloon launches through the weekend and slips sell out quickly. The event will be Sept 11-13. Event details are still in process. Docking reservations can be made on [Dockwa](#).



Memorable cruise may merit a Founders Award

You could be an award-winning Lakes cruiser. GLCC members are eligible the 2026 Founders Award by submitting a story about that special



Sailing is a love affair for new Port Captain

Larry Hunter-Blank is the new Port Captain of Belmont Harbor - Chicago ([M-39](#)). He took up sailing when he

cruise they want to share with others. But act fast: The deadline is March 1.

[Click here to learn more](#)

was dating his now-wife and she asked him if he'd like to learn. Turns out, he gave her exactly the right answer.

[Click here to learn more](#)



How can a clothes pin make boating better?

Shipboard technology doesn't have to be expensive to be effective. These tips won't cost a lot, but they can make your boating life easier and safer.

[Click here to learn more](#)



From the Chaplain: Trust what cannot be seen

"Not every season is meant for speed or spectacle. ... February teaches us that waiting is not wasting time—it is preparation with purpose."

[Click here to learn more](#)

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