

September 2026



GREAT LAKES  
CRUISING CLUB

*Lifeline*  
A member newsletter

## Revisit a Great GLCC summer



Great Lakes Cruising Club members from all five of the Great Lakes participated in seven unique GLCC summer events in 2026. These events offered adventure, information, history, fun, food, and camaraderie. Events included Hop On/Hop Off meetups, rallies across the Lakes, and the annual Rendezvous. All told, nearly 400 members on 150 boats enjoyed our events. Check out these event summaries and pictures in this month's *Lifeline* below.

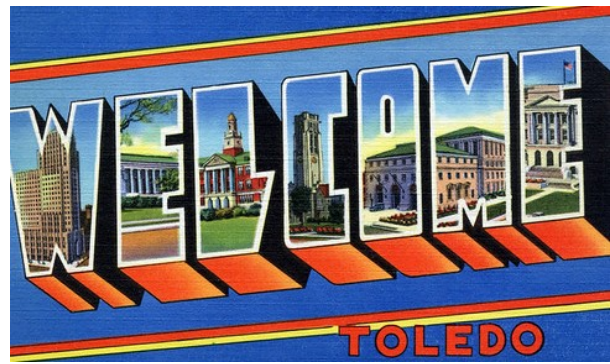


## FROM THE BRIDGE Commodore Joe McKeown

### A SEASON WORTH REMEMBERING:

The Great Lakes Cruising Club's 2026 summer had some terrific highlights, including our annual Rendezvous at Superior/Duluth, the Hop On/Hop Off meetups, and all the great rallies across the Lakes. It was a season of great cruising, memorable destinations, and, most importantly, wonderful friends. Join me as I recall some special memories:

[Click here to learn more](#)



## Holy Toledo! Annual meeting set for Ohio

The GLCC's Annual General Membership Meeting will be in Toledo, OH, on Oct. 23-25. Please plan to attend this year's meeting to witness the change of watch, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, swap stories, and wish our Office Manager Yvonne Murray and Secretary Jim Austin well in their upcoming retirements.

[Click here to learn more](#)

---

## Check out the GLCC 2027 Proposed Slate of Officers

**FY2026 GLCC Slate of Officers**  
(as proposed by the Nominating Committee)

Commodore: Craig Shantz, Sr.  
Vice Commodore: Amy Babinchak  
Secretary: Bill Ditty  
Treasurer: Niels R. Jensen  
Rear Commodores:  
Lake Superior: Nelson C. Stone  
Lake Michigan Northeast & Lake Huron Northwest: Dee McClure  
Lake Michigan Southeast: Milt Fuehrer  
North Channel, Georgian Bay & Canadian Shore of Lake Huron: David Spencer  
Lake Ontario & Connecting Waterways: Vacant  
Detroit & Saginaw Bay, St Clair Lake & River: Rob Hillman  
Lake Erie: James Ehrman  
Fleet Captain: Cheryl Cheger-Timm  
Fleet Surgeon: Michael Hritz, M.D.  
Judge Advocate (CAN): Stephen Selznick  
Judge Advocate (U.S.): Vacant  
Directors-at-Large (Terms Expiring):  
2027 Ardy Barclay\*, James D Richlak\*, Julie Thorndycraft\*  
2028 Jack Lee Dever\*, Jim Egensperger\*, Christine Moore Skrocki\*  
2029 Tom Tucker, Mark Wild, Bill Staffeldt

\*These individuals were previously elected and are not being nominated or elected this year

The election of Club officers and directors will take place October 24, 2026, at the Delta Hotel 3100 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, Ohio & emailed to all members no later than 30 days prior to the meeting.



### Lake Erie Rally pirates commandeer a great time

This year's pirate-themed rally on Middle Bass Island draws in a happy (not scurvy) crew of cruisers for games, costumes, food and fellowship.



### Summer Hop On/Hop Offs receive 5-star reviews

GLCC cruisers have enthusiastically embraced the Hop On/Hop Off meetup concept. The meetups were designed to provide an opportunity for Club members to cruise with friends new and old, providing support, fun and fellowship while on the water. The meetups expanded geometrically as members incorporated the various stops into their plans. Read here about how the meetups generated new connections, friends and spare parts!

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



### 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.

[Click here to learn more](#)



### New Port Captain Sprague shows love for Escanaba

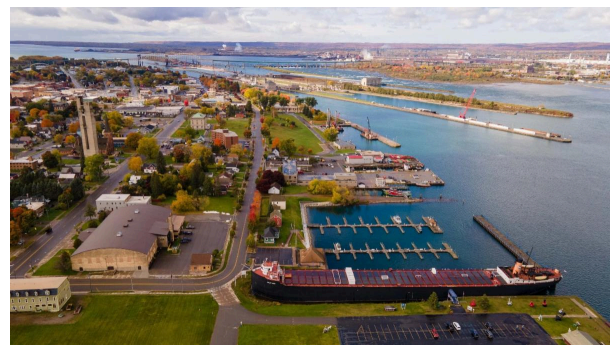
Lori Sprague is the new Port Captain for Escanaba, MI (M-101). She and her husband, Jim, cruise on the 49-foot M/V *Perseverance*. Both are engineers, which makes for fun times exploring the guts of their boat's many systems. Lori encourages anyone to stop by *Perseverance* when in the great city of Escanaba.

[Click here to learn more](#)



### Historic Mackinac Island lives up to its reputation

Those attending the Mackinac Island Rally got a first-hand look at history. Oh, and they also flew a few kites, enjoyed great food and did some unusual activities. Check it out!



### Soo Rally Rocks the Locks: Boats, Buddies and Epic Views!

One would think the Soo Locks would be the centerpiece of the 2026 Soo Rally. The Locks were indeed a highlight, but cruisers also found so much more to see and do.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



### North Channel meetup has a fun, but smoky flavour

Yeah, well, what are you going to do when major wildfires are in the background of your shoreline gathering? If you're part of the GLCC, you turn it into a smokin' good time.

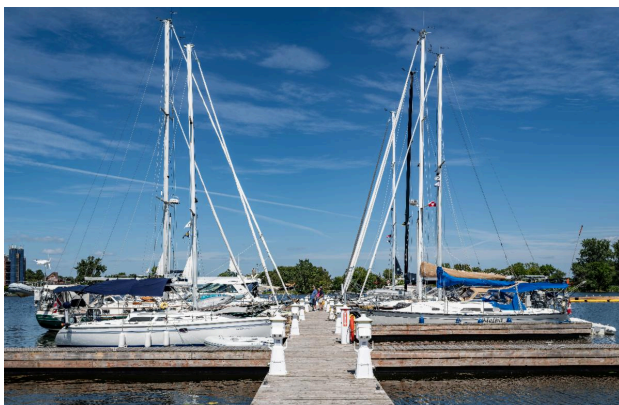


### A truly 'Superior' Rendezvous

This July's Duluth / Superior Rendezvous was a rousing success by several measures. Many members took advantage of meetups and rallies leading to the Rendezvous. Those activities were designed to make the trip to the far northwest corner of the Great Lakes more accessible to Club members from everywhere. Those attending found amazing scenery, interesting history, and warm fellowship.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



### Lake Ontario Rally gives summer a great send off

A record number of attendees made the 2026 Lake Ontario Rally a star



### From the Chaplain: Be steady through change

Changing conditions do not necessarily mean the journey is over.

attraction for cruisers who enjoyed the unique sights and enduring hospitality of Trenton, ON.

Sometimes they simply require us to adjust.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)

## ON OUR WEBSITE

- \* [Eight Bells](#)
- \* [Explore](#) a different port
- \* [Harbor Reports](#): Your guide to better boating
- \* [Member News](#): See new members from your area
- \* [Port Captains](#) / [Board members](#)

[Join GLCC!](#)

[More events](#)

[Foundation](#)

[GLCCSchool](#)

[GLCC merch](#)



**Resources and  
Relationships for Great  
Lakes Cruisers**

**[CONTACT US](#)**



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Great Lakes Cruising Club | PO Box 159 | New Baltimore, MI 48047-0159 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)