

March 2026



**GREAT LAKES
CRUISING CLUB**

Lifeline
A member newsletter

Kingston is a Lake Ontario gem that cruisers won't want to miss



Kingston's maritime history tells a unique story about the Great Lakes. It's also a boater-friendly port with easily accessible amenities. All in all, Kingston is a must-see stop for all Lake Ontario cruisers.

[Click here to learn more](#)

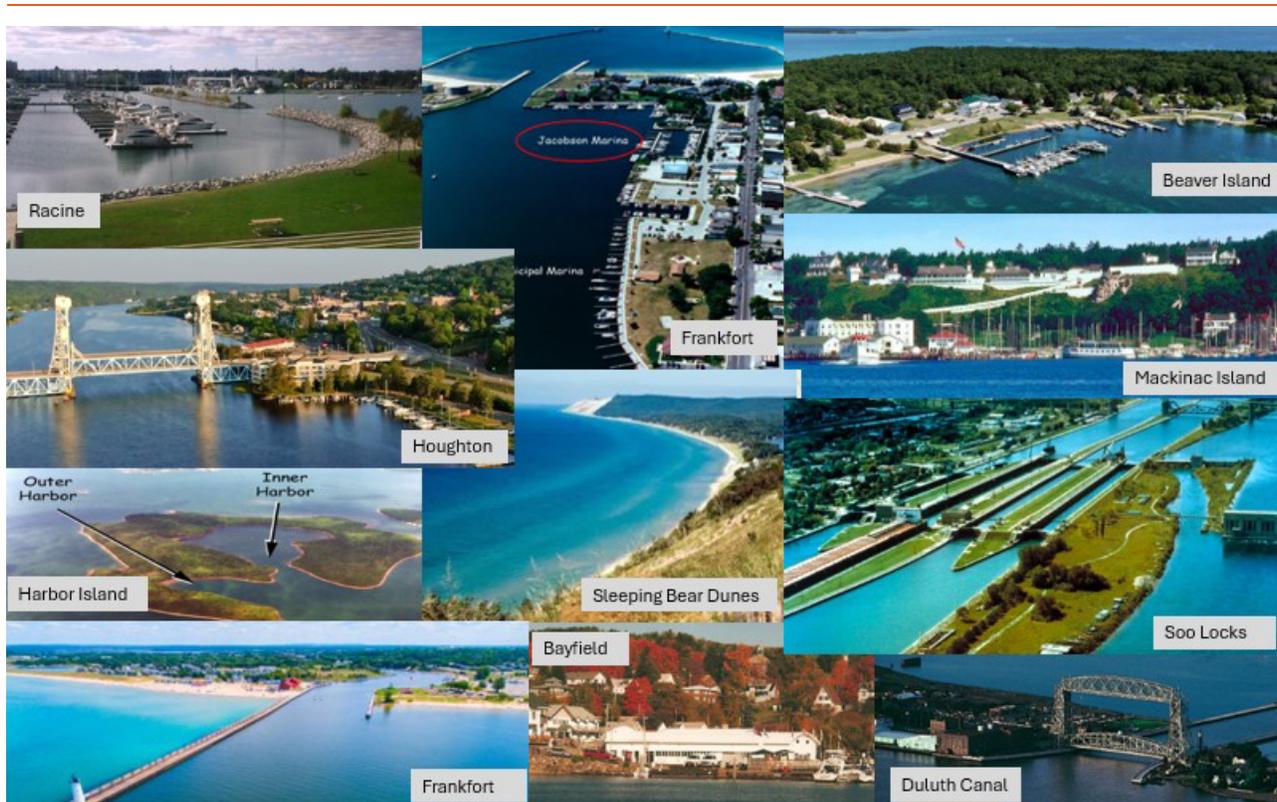
GLCC 2026 Events

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.

2026 Calendar of Summer 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)
GLCC Summer Hop On/Hop Off Flotilla	June 16 - July 9	Various
Mackinac 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	July 14 - ?	Departs from Superior, WI (S-188)
Balloons Over Bay Harbor	Sept 11-13	Bay Harbor, MI (M-5.5)
<i>Events in the works:</i>		
Wilderness Rally - North Channel/Georgian Bay	July	

*More events to be added - check back often!

[Click here to learn more](#)



GLCC 2026 summer flotilla:

Hop on / hop off as you choose

Club flotillas taking members to the Mackinac Island Rally, the Rally at the Soo and the 2026 Rendezvous in Superior – and ports in between – are being organized from lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie. The flotillas offer a unique opportunity to cruise for a few days, or make a long excursion, easier and more fun. As

part of a flotilla, members can “hop on and hop off” anywhere that suits their schedules, while being able to meet up with fellow GLCC members along the way. A large number of members attended the GLCC School’s recent flotilla webinar which shared the preliminary planning. The overwhelming interest in the flotilla reflects a pent-up demand for expanding member’s cruising areas. Learn all about it below.

[Click here to learn more](#)



FROM THE BRIDGE **Commodore Joe McKeown**

GET READY FOR A GREAT SUMMER: Mid-March is here — and with it, that unmistakable stir of excitement as launch dates are getting closer. Before you splash, your Club wants to help you get there safely and smartly. Spring commissioning is one of our great seasonal rituals, and one worth doing right. Check your systems thoroughly — sailors, give your rigging and sails a careful eye; power boaters, make sure your engines are ready to run. Verify your safety equipment is current. Review the GLCC Harbor Reports and confirm your charts are up to date. Once the prep work is behind you, a terrific summer awaits. Let me tell you a bit about what you can look forward to...



LAST CHANCE to register! **Join fellow members for April** **Launch meeting**

Don't miss out on the GLCC's April Launch, April 10-12 at Oakwood Resort in Grand Bend, ON. The weekend features pre-season socializing, exploring Lambton County Heritage Museum, the GLCC Board meeting and, for fun, an opportunity to race professional go karts at the Grand Bend Speedway. Rear Commodore Dave Spencer is eager to show off this delightful part of Ontario.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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Rendezvous your way to history, live webcams

While at the '26 Rendezvous in Duluth/Superior, take in the rich maritime history immediately adjacent to Barkers Island. The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center offers visitors interactive exhibits and immersive displays. The adjacent SS *Meteor*, built in 1896 and sailed until 1969, is the sole surviving "whaleback" design, enabled her to carry maximum amount of cargo with minimum draft. While awaiting the start of the Rendezvous (don't forget to register [HERE](#)) check out the live bridge web cams of ships traversing the Duluth Ship Canal. If you are an early bird, an added bonus are incredible sunrises!

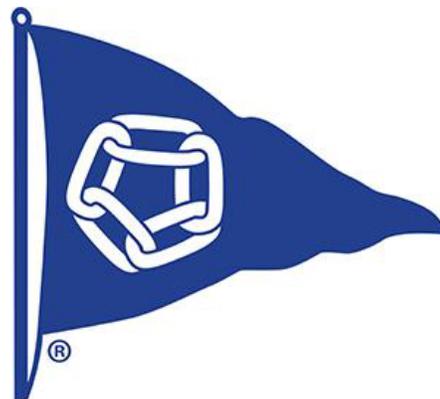
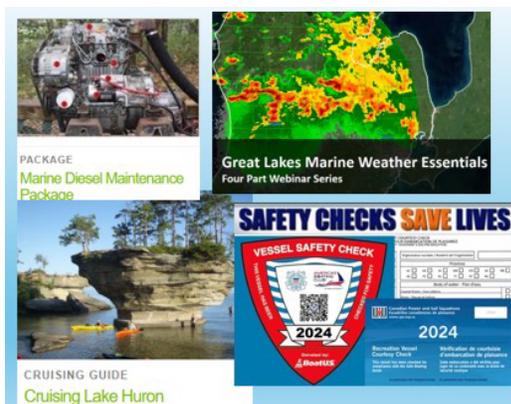
[Click here to learn more](#)



Head to Lake Erie for a pirate weekend

Don your best swashbuckling attire for the Lake Erie Rally June 12-14 at Middle Bass Island (E-18.5). Set sail back to the 1800's, when the waters of the Great Lakes were a lawless playground for rogue pirates. There will be plenty of plunderin' challenges, booty galore, and a Captain's Feast for old salts and scawags alike. Click below for details on what's in store for those hearty enough to attend.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Beat the winter blues with GLCCSchool's new shows

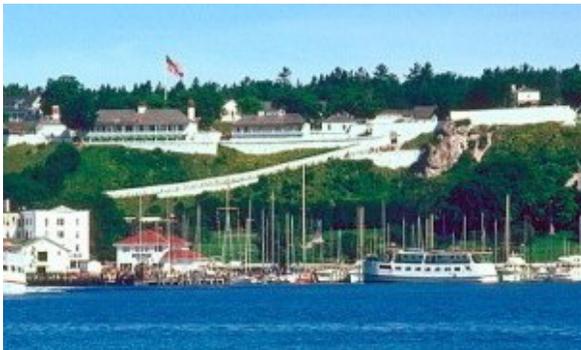
The latest GLCCSchool lineup helps you brush up on important skills, including a four-part webinar on Diesel engines, the last two parts in the series on Great Lakes weather, and information about marine communications and vessel safety equipment requirements. View recordings of more than 30 webinars when you want. GLCCSchool classes are free to members. View the latest GLCCSchool offerings here.

[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](#)



Mackinac Island Rally registration now open

Join fellow GLCC members on June 22-25 for the Mackinac Island Rally. The island is steeped in history and, if you've never visited, you are in for a treat as it is literally a step back in time in which horse-drawn carriages and bicycles are the only modes of transportation. The Rally's schedule offers exploration, camaraderie and time-honored traditions - such as the dinner at the Mackinac Island Yacht Club. We look forward to seeing you on the Island!

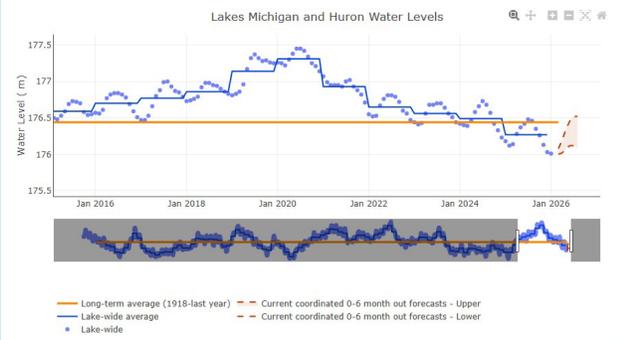


Rally at the Soo a 'lock' on a great time

The Rally at the Soo Rally, which runs from June 26-28 is now open for registration. The Rally is set in one of North America's oldest settlements, dating from the 1600s. Sault Ste. Marie is home to the legendary Soo Locks. The Rally is timed to coordinate with the once-a-year Soo Locks Engineers Day and the International Bridge Walk. See you at the Soo!

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



Lake levels going to be up or down? Projections vary...

The jury is still out on lake levels in 2026. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicates possibly higher water levels in lakes Erie and Ontario this summer, while lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior could be much lower. Check out the forecast below.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Photo contest ends March 31! Share your photo memories from last year's cruises

We want to see your photos from 2025. The people you met, the waves that crashed over your decks, the sunsets and sunrises that filled the skies. Time is short! Submit your digital photos by March 31. The Great Lakes Cruising Club is all about fellowship. Share your photos from last season, and help get everyone primed for a great 2026! And hey, you might even win a prize.

[Click here to learn more](#)



What really affects Great Lakes water levels?

A Sea Grant Michigan/NOAA video, linked below, provides a fascinating explanation of the science behind how and when winter precipitation does, or does not, impact



GLCC financial reports now posted for review

The annual GLCC financial reports are posted. The Great Lakes Cruising Club meets all financial reporting requirements

water levels on the Great Lakes. (Note audio starts at 0:29). Enjoy!

for a nonprofit organization. Members are encouraged to review the reports.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



Invite your friends to join GLCC; no initiation fee till March 31

You love the GLCC, so why not share that? Invite your boating friends to join before March 31 and they won't have to pay the standard \$90 initiation fee. Your friends will elevate their cruising knowledge, skills, safety and hey, they might offer you dinner as a thank-you for introducing them to this great boating community!

[Click here to learn more](#)



**Reserve dockage NOW for
Balloons over Bay Harbor**



**From the Chaplain:
Between ice and open water**

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.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." March reminds us that seasons do change. The ice never has the final word.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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