

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters®



## THE DRUM

A Publication of the Finger Lakes Chapter

**In this issue...**

- From The Commander ..... 1
- From the Administrative Officer.....3
- From the Education Director .....4
- From One of the Assistant Education Officers .....5
- Secretary's Sidenotes .....6
- Water Lines .....7
- Upcoming Classes & Seminars .....8
  - America's Boating Course (ABC) .....8
  - Marine Navigation .....8
  - Sail .....8
  - Engine Maintenance.....9
  - How to Register .....9
  - Looking for Something?.....9
- Long-Term Class Schedule.....9
- USPS News: Local, District, National & More ..... 11
  - New Member Welcome ..... 11
  - Happy Birthday! ..... 11
  - Vessel Safety Exam ..... 11
  - The Drum* is Recognized ..... 11
  - Club Burgees Available..... 11
  - National News ..... 11
  - Got News? ..... 11
- District 6 Spring Conference ..... 12
- Sail to Boca Grande ..... 13
- The Last Word ..... 15
- Calendar of Events ..... 16
- D6 SPRING CONFERENCE RESERVATION FORM ..... 17
- Please report any errors or omissions to:  
[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

### From The Commander

By *Phil Cherry, AP*                      *SV Harmony*

#### View from the Bridge

This is my first entry as Commander of the ABC-FLX Chapter. I appreciate the confidence our organizations and its leadership has placed in me, and I will do all that I can to promote our mission and serve the boating community here in the Finger Lakes. It is my honor to do so.

#### Thank you!

If you missed our Change of Watch Ceremony on January 16<sup>th</sup>, you missed hearing about all the great work that our previous Commander, Jim McGinnis, has done for the chapter over the past three years of his leadership. We were lucky to have him at the helm and I'm thrilled that Jim will stay active in the Chapter as our new Education Officer.

Charlie Fausold has transitioned into what I'd informally call "SEO Emeritus" status, helping to market our classes to neighboring chapters and occasionally serving



as an instructor. His efforts, guidance, and perseverance through these last few busy years as our Education Officer has been extraordinary, and we are grateful for his continued engagement with our Chapter.

In reflecting on how successful we've been in our instructional efforts, as well as maintaining and growing our chapter, it's pretty obvious that the quality of our leaders and instructors is what sets us above many other Chapters across central New York and beyond. Jim and Charlie are but two of many current and former members who have helped us succeed. I cannot list them all, but I do want to recognize Marcia Taylor, Tom Alley, Glenda Gephart, Mark Erway and Tom Taylor. Your continued engagement and

contributions as members of our new leadership team are so much appreciated. Thank You!

**Stepping Up**

Serving in a leadership role in any organization can be time consuming and sometimes difficult. Notwithstanding those concerns, four of our members have stepped forward to serve on the Bridge for 2022. These new members of the Bridge include Maggie Martin as Administrative Officer, Andrew Price as Secretary, and Jim Morris and Katie Alley as Assistant Education Officers. Membership is critical in any organization, but serving in a leadership role is even more critical, and I appreciate Katie, Jim, Andrew, and Maggie for stepping forward and giving us your time and talents! For a full list of our newly elected bridge and executive committee members, please refer to our website [here](#) or see the insert on page 2.

**ABC – National Conference**

The national conference for America’s Boating Club will have concluded by the time you see this edition of the Drum. I studied the agenda the other day and it looked interesting. You can find it [here](#) if you’re interested. I can’t help but wonder if an eight-day conference (Feb 19-27 this year) in Florida in the winter isn’t designed to serve as a perk for leadership at the national level, but I guess that’s pretty obvious. Then again, members give their time and talents freely to this organization and its many committees and councils, all working toward a

safer boating future. Who knows, maybe next year I’ll make the pilgrimage and attend the national conference. Look for my report next year!

**Local News**

I was down to the Marina the other day. Winter is clearly still in charge, but fret not, spring will come as will the chores needed to get the boat in the water. If you keep your boat in the Village Marina in Watkins Glen, you probably got your bill recently. You may have seen the notice that the Marina restaurant is now closed. I can’t imagine that there won’t be some sort of restaurant or bar service in there this summer, and I hear something is in the works, but keep your fingers crossed that the county gets a new restaurateur in there in time for summer. I get pretty thirsty cleaning the boat! Stay tuned for more news on that front.

I’m expecting another call soon for volunteers to donate a sail or two to the Village of Watkins Glen for their Third Street Park. Last year was the first year the Village, working with the Chamber of Commerce, set up the park along Franklin St. to provide some shade to visitors and locals alike. If we get the call, we’ll poll members at that time to see if anyone has an old mains’l they’d like to get out of their garage!

That’s all for this winter edition. I look forward to the Chapter conducting a social event in the spring (and hopefully without the shadow of Covid). In addition, we are already planning this year’s summer rendezvous up at Sampson state park July 29– 31.

**The Drum**

*Published six times per year by the Finger Lakes Chapter of America’s Boating Club. The opinions expressed in **The Drum** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of America’s Boating Club, its officers, directors, or members.*

**General Information**

[info@abc-flx.org](mailto:info@abc-flx.org)

**Commander**

Phil Cherry, AP  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

**Executive Officer**

[Position Vacant]  
[xo@abc-flx.org](mailto:xo@abc-flx.org)

**Administrative Officer**

Maggie Martin  
[ao@abc-flx.org](mailto:ao@abc-flx.org)

**Education Officer**

Jim McGinnis, SN-IN  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

**Secretary**

Andrew Price, S  
[sec@abc-flx.org](mailto:sec@abc-flx.org)

**Treasurer**

Marcia Taylor, AP  
[treas@abc-flx.org](mailto:treas@abc-flx.org)

**Assistant Education Officers**

Jim Morris, JN  
[aseo1@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo1@abc-flx.org)

Katie Alley, S  
[aseo2@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo2@abc-flx.org)

**Membership**

Mark Erway, AP  
[membership@abc-flx.org](mailto:membership@abc-flx.org)

**Public Relations Officers**

Glenda Gephart &  
Judy Cherry, S  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)

**Vessel Safety Check Chairman**

Ray Margeson, AP  
[vsc@abc-flx.org](mailto:vsc@abc-flx.org)

**Web Site Administrator**

Thomas Alley, SN-IN  
[webmaster@abc-flx.org](mailto:webmaster@abc-flx.org)

Unless attributed otherwise, ©2022 copyright by America’s Boating Club - Finger Lakes Chapter. All rights reserved.

Make your plans now to join us! In the meantime, study the schedule of upcoming classes found below and mark your calendars for some excellent educational

opportunities brought to you by the ABC-FLX.

See you around the marina! Come June, my Pearson 27 is on dock

four, slip 417..., stop by and say hi!

- Phil, SV Harmony  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

---

## From the Administrative Officer

By Maggie Martin

### A Quick "Hello!"



Hello, ABC members!

We are planning a Spring get together at the end of April. Location and details will be announced closer to the date.

As a new member, I welcome any suggestions for locations for our events and ideas (or volunteers) for presenters.

We will try to continue the Spring, Summer, and Fall

SV Wined 'n' Down

meeting schedule that has been done in the past.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

- Maggie  
[ao@abc-flx.org](mailto:ao@abc-flx.org)

## From the Education Director

By Jim McGinnis, SN-IN

SV Brewster

### Looking Forward



Welcome to 2022 – Boating season is just around the corner!

I am really excited to join this talented Bridge and Committee Leadership Team for our Finger Lakes Chapter. We are all extremely fortunate that these individuals have stepped forward take on the roles on our organization. We also have in our Executive Committee, several experienced leaders watching over and guiding us as they have for several years. Reach out to me and these individuals to help us become a better organization.

First of all, a hearty “Thank You” must go to my predecessor in this role; Charlie Fausold. Over the past 3 years he has taken on all

the uncertainties and challenges that COVID could come up with and met them all with effectiveness and leadership. We switched over to on-line classes and seminars when that was the order of the day.

We have continued our excellent education program and grown it substantially in the number of electives taught, courses taught, and instructors trained. Also, Charlie has served in nearly every role in the organization and some that you probably never new existed. For example, he has been our Historian for many years keeping tabs on the activities of the organization and creating a permanent record. It is said that strength of any organization is in its people and Charlie has brought continuous leadership and skill in his roles as one of our most valuable players. MVP! MVP! MVP!

Next, this USPS National Boat Safety organization is really all about you, our members. We

want to support you in any way we can to become skilled, capable, and confident on the water. Please take a careful look at the long-term class list later in this newsletter. Our class schedules are now set up by the skill level targeted by the individual member. From our America’s Boating Club basic boating safety education course (now required in New York State to operate a powerboat) to Celestial Navigation, we have the materials, skills and instructors required to teach every class imaginable.

Let us know how we can serve you better. Call, write or stop by S/V Brewster on Dock 2 in the Watkins Glen Marina.

[SEO@abc-flx.org](mailto:SEO@abc-flx.org)

- Jim

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

# From One of the Assistant Education Officers

By Katie Alley, S

SV Tomfoolery

## Return to the Bridge!



I have taken several years away from a leadership position with America's Boating

Club to focus on getting a ~~\$100,000 piece of paper~~ earning my bachelor's degree, but as of January, I am back as Co-Assistant Education Officer alongside Jim Morris. My focus will be primarily on our offerings for America's Boating Course (ABC) which allows students to earn

their New York State Boating Safety Certificate.

For those of you who may be newer to our chapter, I was the chair of our former Youth Committee from 2014 to 2017 while I was still in high school. A large focus of our youth activity at the time was Junior Sailing – a program that allowed local high-school-aged youth the opportunity to learn to sail on larger boats ranging in length from 25- to 36-feet. Some of my responsibilities involved acting as a junior coach, assisting in organizing events (such as our Junior Sailing BBQ in 2016), planning extended cruises and rendezvouses, managing social media, and attending PR events (my personal favorite was *S/V Blue Disaster's* participation in the 2017 Cardboard Boat Regatta). I have also assisted in

teaching ABC and Boat Handling in recent years.

In the summers of 2019 and 2020, I worked as the Sailing Coordinator for Camp Comstock – a Girl Scout camp located six miles up from Ithaca on the west side of Cayuga Lake. There I taught children ages 7-17 and their families how to sail on 12-foot Sunfish. For many of these campers, it was their first time and only opportunity to get on a sailboat. It was my job to turn them into confident sailors in just a few hours. This job forced me to be confident in myself as a boater and as a coach. I learned plenty about myself and even more about how to corral angsty campers on boats! (I can only imagine it is similar to herding cats.)

Most recently in 2021, I worked as crew aboard *S/V True Love*, a 67-foot wooden schooner offering sailing charters out of Seneca Harbor. This position allowed me to gain experience on a boat much larger than any vessel I have been aboard before. While the charters seem pretty routine, every day is a bit different – different wind, different weather, different passengers. The tourists on board LOVE to test the crew's knowledge – on the boat, on the lake, on the physics of sailing – all of it. Again, for many of the passengers, it is their one time to be on a sailboat and they want to have a valuable and enriching experience. (How much of it they remember depends on how many times I refill their wine glass, but I've digressed.)



Photo 1: Katie's campers in Sunfish sailing on Cayuga Lake – full sails despite shifty winds and avoiding other boat traffic!

Though I have not been as involved in the Chapter as much in the past few years, I have been exercising my boating skills, expanding my knowledge, and building confidence in my ability to pass along what I know. Hopefully I still do not sound too much like a camp counselor when I say this, but **safety** and **fun** are two of my biggest priorities that I plan to remember the most when teaching. *How can we as boaters have fun while being safe? How can we as instructors emphasize the importance of safety while making our lessons fun?*

With Brianna’s Law continuing to increase the age requirement for a NYS Boating Safety Certificate, we can expect students both old and young in our ABC classes. Many students enrolled in this class likely plan on it being their only form of boating education so that they can simply meet the legal requirement. It is our mission to emphasize the value of boating education and to show the benefits of a membership with America’s Boating Club. It is not news that there are concerns over declining and aging membership nationally within America’s Boating

Club. My hope for 2022 is that we can capture these students’ attention and spark their interest in other educational or social opportunities. Furthermore, I hope that I can open our membership up to a younger demographic. I’ll be sure to bring the enthusiasm of a camp counselor and tour guide!

- Katie

[aseo2@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo2@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o

*Postscript*

## Secretary’s Sidenotes

By Andrew Price

Secretary

### Meet Andrew



Greetings! I am excited to introduce myself to the ABC-FLX membership as the current year Secretary.

Most of you know me from around the docks at the Village Marina and from the variety of boats I have sailed and motored over the years. This year represents an exciting and challenging step up in my involvement with boating education. I am proud to have been nominated to the position by a fine group of boaters who have

built and maintained a leading organization within the USPS.

As I attend my first meeting and get used to my duties, I am met by a plethora of new initialisms, ranks, and titles held by the Bridge Officers. Feeling a little overwhelmed, and being curious, I decided to do some research. I discovered that our club website has a link to the definitions. Turns out, these designations fall into categories called: Rank/Positions, Grade, Certification Level, and Achievements. Just reading them is an education. For instance, suffix initials like IN or CN are defined. I won’t divulge what they mean. You can find them here: <http://www.abc-flx.org>. You will need to log in to see the member directory. Then you can click the link labeled, Ranks and Grades. I also found the list of officers and

other roles carried out by members. Check out the website. Be curious and have fun!

As secretary, I plan to contribute to the newsletter regularly with information about our local, district, and national organizations. I also plan to help the membership stay informed about what is available on our website and other resources.

While performing the duties of squadron secretary is interesting, love of boating is why I, and I am sure all of us, are really here. Thus, I would like to contribute stories and informative articles that share my love and experience with boating. See you on the water!

- Andrew

[secretary@abc-flx.org](mailto:secretary@abc-flx.org)

## Water Lines

By Glenda Gephart

Public Relations Officer

### Watershed Stewardship



Even as Seneca Lake's allure remains a boater's winter wish, the health of the lake is a hot topic.

While

tucked inside on a snowy, icy day, you can listen to a podcast featuring Seneca Watershed Steward Ian Smith or read about – and perhaps support – a Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association water-quality project.

Smith, based at the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, is interviewed by Ted Baker for his podcast series, *Inside the FLX*, presented by the news site FingerLakes1.com.

The wide-ranging interview, which was posted on February 7<sup>th</sup>, covers the impact of phosphorus on water quality, the Nine Element Plan for the Seneca and Keuka lakes watershed, and the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal

Organization. Smith also touches on what we all can do to help.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association announced a fund-raising effort to support its Sediment, Nutrient, and Pollution Reduction (SNPR) program. The SNPR program was organized over the last year and is aimed at “reducing sediment and nutrients that negatively impact the water quality of Seneca Lake and its tributaries.”

The program addresses storm-water-related runoff “from agricultural sources, from urban areas, from roads, and from ditch erosion.”

“The program will provide financial assistance to projects within the watershed that reduce these pollutants. Limiting other pollutants such as organic chemicals, bacteria, and heavy metals are also projects of interest,” according to an Association news release.

In a recent report to Association members, President Jake Welch said SNPR already has donated \$5,000 to help pay for a \$30,000 engineering study of the Keuka

Outlet, the largest contributor of phosphates in Seneca Lake.

“If feasible, the project will redirect high volume waters into the old canal beds along this stream. This will capture sediment, let nitrates ‘gas off’ into harmless nitrogen and have phosphates settle far uphill and away from our lake,” Welch writes.

For details about the SNPR program, go to the Association's website at:

<https://senecalake.org/snpr/>

Supporting documents are posted at [86aba680-8a34-4f27-945c-b7cde46c6fab.pdf](https://senecalake.org/snpr/86aba680-8a34-4f27-945c-b7cde46c6fab.pdf) ([ctctusercontent.com](http://ctctusercontent.com)) and at [768a4e67-03a2-4f81-8f04-a8e166daafdf.pdf](https://senecalake.org/snpr/768a4e67-03a2-4f81-8f04-a8e166daafdf.pdf) ([ctctusercontent.com](http://ctctusercontent.com)).

To listen to the FingerLakes1.com podcast with Ian Smith, go to <https://www.finger-lakes1.com/2022/02/07/inside-the-flx-seneca-watershed-steward-ian-smith-on-the-9-element-plan-the-threats-facing-the-lakes-and-how-we-can-help-podcast/>

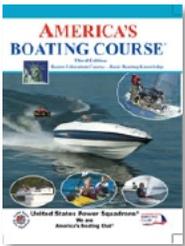
- Glenda  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)

## Upcoming Classes & Seminars

To register for any of these classes or to get more information, please contact Education Director Jim McGinnis at:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

### America's Boating Course (ABC)



An introductory course that will satisfy Brianna's Law requirements for New York State as well as put you on the path

to becoming a more knowledgeable (and safer) boater.

**Where:** Lyons National Bank  
Waterloo, NY

**When:** April 26<sup>th</sup> (LNB)  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> (LNB)

May 5<sup>th</sup> Review and exam aboard  
Dennis Daniels' 30-foot cruiser at  
Barrett's Marine.

**Course fee:** \$45.

### Marine Navigation

Marine Navigation (currently offered as Piloting) is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation,



covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough

of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning.

Ten classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition, the students have seven days to complete the open book exam.

Topics covered include:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Navigation aids and how they point to safe water
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning
- The "Seaman's Eye" – simple skills for checking that one is on course.

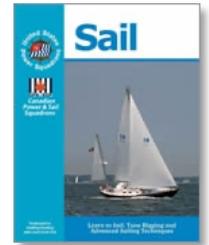
**Where:** Human Resource Building, Montour Falls, NY.

**When:** Begins March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Course fee:** \$75

### Sail

A 9-week course with both classroom and on-the-water components. Sail is a complete sail course created to serve the needs



of the novice and experienced sailor, as well as the non-sailor, for basic skills and knowledge. The course starts with basic sailboat designs and nomenclature, rigging, safety, and sail processes, and then tackles the physical aspects of sailing forces and techniques, sail applications, marlinespike, helmsmanship and handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy weather sailing. Appendices provide an introduction to sailboat racing and sailing in Canadian waters.

Course completion is documented by a closed book exam graded by USPS Headquarters.

**Where:**

- Classroom: Human Resource Building, Montour Falls
- On-the-Water: Watkins Glen Village Marina

**When:** Begins Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
at 7PM

**Course fee:** \$80

**Lead Instructor:** Tom Alley

Class size will be limited to the number of students that can be accommodated on the boats used for teaching. Please write or call to sign up early.

## Engine Maintenance

Every skipper needs to understand the fundamentals of gas and diesel engines to perform basic maintenance and diagnose problems under way.



Learn about transmissions, propellers, and steering.

Get the knowledge you need to keep your boat in tiptop shape.

What's Included?

- Basics of engine layout and operation for gasoline inboards, outboards and diesels
- Basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls
- Repairs that do-it-yourselfers can perform

- Diagnose problems that might be beyond your ability to fix
- How to share information with your mechanic so the right repairs get performed

*Engine Maintenance* can be taught in ten two-hour sessions including time for review and the multiple choice closed book exam.

**When:** Begins July 2022

**Course Fee:** \$85

**Lead Instructor:** Jim McGinnis

### How to Register

If you have questions about any of these courses, or better yet, to sign up, please contact either of the following individuals:

Education Director Jim McGinnis, Finger Lakes Chapter:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

Or you can go to the national web site ([www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)) and register under the "Find A Boating Class" tab on the member home page.

### Looking for Something?

The Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club will be happy to accommodate requests for courses not currently on our schedule of formal offerings. If there is an area in which you would like to get some instruction, please contact Jim McGinnis, the Chapter Education Director, with your request.

Available subjects for instruction can be found on the chapter web site:

[www.abc-flx.org](http://www.abc-flx.org)

## Long-Term Class Schedule

Finger Lakes Chapter Education Department

Table Key: X=Planned, C=Completed

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Inland Navigator	Classes	ABC	X	X	X	X	X	
		Boat Handling		X		X		X
		Engine Maintenance	X					
		Marine Electrical Systems					X	
	Seminars	Using A Chart		X				
		VHF/DSC Radios		X				
		Using GPS	X					
		Basic Weather and Forecasting						X
	Skills	Basic Powerboat Handling	X					
		Fire Extinguishers						

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Coastal Navigator	Classes	Marine Navigation	X		X		X
		Marine Communication Systems				X	
		Weather		X			
	Seminars	Tides & Currents		X			
		Rules of the Road			X		
		Anchoring	X				
		Mariner's Compass					X
	Skills	Coastal Nav	X				
		Pyrotechnics					

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Advanced Coastal Navigator	Classes	Advanced Marine Navigation		X		X	
		Cruise Planning			X		
		Marine Navigation Systems				X	
		Radar			X		
	Sem.	Emergencies Onboard		X			
		Marine Radar			X		
	Skills	Advanced Coastal Nav		X			
		First Aid					

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Offshore Navigator	C		X			X	
	Sem.	Computer Weather Forecasting			X		
		Thunderstorms / Severe Weather			X		
	Skills	Offshore Navigation			X		
		CPR/AED					
Endorsments	Sail	X		X		X	
	Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes						X
	Canadian Regulations				X		
	Paddlesmart		X		X		
Other	Instructor Development	C					
	Instructor Recertification			X		X	
	Operations Training	X					

# USPS News: Local, District, National & More

## New Member Welcome

Warmest welcome to our newest member!

- Cindy Swank

## Happy Birthday!

Best wishes to Finger Lakes Chapter members who are celebrating their birthday in next couple of months.

### March

- Nancy Sisbarro
- Terry Stewart
- Bill Clack
- Helene Fausold
- Steve Pietro
- Mark Erway
- Jim McGinnis

### April

- Carolyn Clack
- Andrea Johnson
- Dave Dawson-Elli
- Henry Cabezas

And we don't want to forget our neighbors in the Ithaca Sail & Power Squadron who are celebrating their birthdays:

### March

- Tim Reilley

### April

- Barb Saroka
- Gene Milliman

## Vessel Safety Exam

*By Ray Margeson*

Don't forget to get your vessel safety exam to ensure your boat is in compliance with Coast Guard and NYS standards. The exam takes less than a half an hour and you can have

confidence that you are in compliance after a satisfactory exam. You can contact Ray Margeson at slip 216 or by email at: [vsc@abc-flx.org](mailto:vsc@abc-flx.org).

## The Drum is Recognized

*By Tom Alley*

The Drum newsletter was recognized for excellence with the 2021 Distinguished Communicator Award by the National Communications Committee of the USPS.



Thanks to all of you who contributed articles and columns that helped our chapter achieve this recognition!

I'm also happy to report that our club web site has been similarly recognized with the 2021 Distinctive Communicator Award. Initially, we were overlooked because the review occurred during the time the site was being rebuilt, but when the reviewer returned to our site, he quickly awarded us the DCA. Thanks to everyone who helped put our site back together!

## Club Burgees Available



Show off your membership! Fly your

squadron/chapter burgee proudly!

## National News

*By Tom Alley*

There has been a lot going on at this year's Annual Meeting for America's Boating Club. While details were not available in time for publication, you are encouraged to keep an eye on your email for notices and updates. There are some significant changes coming to the organization and we will communicate those to you as quickly as appropriate. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Bridge or Executive Committee.

## Got News?

*By Tom Alley, Editor*

Do you have any boating-related news or announcements? Contact your editor and have it printed here. We're happy to publicize anything of interest to our members, whether it's for the Finger Lakes Chapter or for one of our neighboring squadrons.

Contact Tom Alley:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o

# District 6 Spring Conference

By Tom Alley

D/6 Education Officer

If you've never been to a District Conference, you should consider attending, especially if the venue is nearby. On April 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, District 6 will be holding their Spring Conference in Binghamton, NY, which is only about an hour's drive away. All of you should have received an email from the District with the complete information packet and registration forms, but I'll include some highlights of that information below. Please note that you can come and go to the various programs as you please. There is no obligation for you to sit through everything.

## Friday Evening Highlights

Join the Town Hall meeting at 7:00pm with Chief Commander Craig Fraser. Craig has visited District 6 before, but this will be his first visit as Chief. Those who have met Craig before can vouch for his engaging and approachable presence.

After the town hall, there is the always-popular Hospitality Suite where you can unwind

and network with other folks from across the district that are as serious about having fun as you are.

## Saturday Highlights

The morning will be filled with the business meetings required by the District Bylaws. Admittedly, this isn't everyone's cup of tea, but it is the best place to find out what's happening across the district and up at National.

Following a buffet lunch, there are several interesting programs being offered:

Bob Bossert will be giving an introduction to OpenCPN starting at 1:00pm.

Following a short break, I'll be talking about keeping an older boat up to date with current standards in safety, comfort, and convenience at 2:45pm. I'll be accompanied by Joe Morgan of Joey Boats Marine Center in Kirkwood, NY.

At 3:45pm there will be a live demonstration appealing to

anyone who enjoys paddle sports. Jim Signs of Route 96 Power and Paddle will give tips and tricks to becoming a better paddler in the hotel pool.

Of course, it wouldn't be a District Conference without a great meal at the end of the day. Hope you'll consider joining everyone for cocktails and dinner beginning at 5:45pm.

## Register Now!

Don't put off to the last minute and then forget about it. Fill out your registration form and send it to Bridgett Arieno well before the March 24<sup>th</sup> deadline. A copy of the form is in the Spring Conference issue of *The Deep 6* as well as on page 17 of this newsletter.

I hope to see you there. I always enjoy these gatherings, especially after we've had so few get togethers the past two years.

-Tom

o o o o o

## Sail to Boca Grande

By Jim McGinnis

SV Brewster

“Dolphins off the port bow!” We went sailing this February on a 40-foot Fountaine Pajot Catamaran chartered from Burnt Store Marina in South West Florida. This awesome marina boasts 525 wet slips and 300 dry slips, along with 27 holes of golf, an athletic club, tennis courts, pools, plus the excellent dining at Cass Cay Restaurant, Linkside Café, and the Ship’s Store (“*The Trading Post*”), and belies its history as a spot of devastation.

The story goes that in 1839 the Seminole Indians were being pushed from their land. An Indian Chief known as Billy Bowlegs, said “We won’t do it without fighting for it!” So, one dark night, as the legend goes, Billy and his little band stormed the Trading Post and set it on fire. Some of the surveyors spotted the Indians on the run and fired at them, killing some. Many of the settlers lost their lives in the fire.” Thus, the name “Burnt Store”.

This area is just north of Fort Myers on the edges of Charlotte Harbor. It is a terrific spot for a sailing charter since the opportunities for adventure are great, the sailing is unlimited, and it’s all located in protected, huge Charlotte Harbor where you can be sailing a large boat just minutes from the marina. (Many harbors on the west coast of Florida require significant motoring to get into an area of water deep enough and wide enough to hoist the sails.) In the early 1500’s, the explorer Juan Ponce De Leon is believed to have been the first European to visit this harbor. Today, Sanibel, Captiva, and Coya Costa are a fabulous chain of islands to the south of Charlotte Harbour. Gasparilla Island is to the west and has been made famous by the exploits of the notorious Spanish pirate Jose Gasparilla. (1756-1821 reportedly)



Photo 2: The entrance to Boca Grande Marina.



Photo 4: The crew at Cabbage Key Inn. (L-R: Claire & Phil Smock, Maureen & Marty Castellana, Lynne & Jim McGinnis)



Photo 3: Heading to Galveston?



Photo 5: S/V Running Higher.



Photo 6: Sunset on Useppa Island.



Photo 7: Better days at Boca Grande. (L-R: Lynne & Jim McGinnis)

Heading out of Burnt Store, having just topped off diesel fuel and freshwater tanks, we encountered a light chop and winds out of the South East. We were able to set the main and jib sails and set a nearly beam reach course direct to Cabbage Key. After a few hours we reached Coya Costa and had to enter the Intracoastal waterway to get to Cabbage Key. The dredged waterway is about 12 feet generally with shallows immediately on either side of the channel. Hailing the harbor master on the VHF we told him we had a reservation for a slip for the night. He directed us to the northern point on the west most dock where we tied up for the night.

Dinner reservations at the Cabbage Key Inn probably weren't needed but we were welcomed to the Captains Table at the Inn and had a delightful dinner of catch of the day - Triple Tail. The owner regaled us with the history of the inn and some stories of famous visitors. The bar is known for having more than \$80,000 dollars stapled or tacked to the ceiling from visitors. We left a good tip and felt we had done it justice.

A day later the weather cleared, and we headed out into the Gulf of Mexico in a north wind. We got the catamaran doing 10 knots with full sails in a stiff breeze which kicked up white caps on the Gulf. Three couples sailing this boat was just right in terms of space and crew capability. More dolphins approached the boat and seemed to keep tabs on us from time to time. Due to the haze and relatively low visibility, we were out of sight of land at about 10 miles from Gasparilla Island.

After a great sail, we headed back into Charlotte Harbor, stuck the sails, and motored into Boca Grand Marina for the night. We rented a six-passenger golf cart to tour the island and visited the light house and a historical museum.

We had a huge spaghetti and meatball dinner on the boat that evening and capped it off with a game of Yacht Race. It's a board game from Parker Bros. that simulates a six-boat sailboat race with wind changes and surprising events that can affect a single boat or the fleet. White knuckle skippers wait anxiously for the next turn.

We sailed Charlotte Harbor and visited Useppa Island for a night before heading back to Burnt Store Marina.

All in all, it was a terrific trip, and a great time was had by all aboard. I can't recommend the area enough for a fabulous cruising area with our shores!

-Jim

o o o o o



Photo 8: One of the Ninja Gopher Turtles at Cabbage Key.

## The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN

SV Tomfoolery



It's mid-February as I write this, the nadir of the boating season. The temperature is hovering

around 0°F outside and our friendly neighbors in Canada are sharing some abundant air flow from the polar regions of the globe. On days like today I wish they weren't so generous with us.

### Good News & Bad News

I think that introduction pretty much sums up the bad news for this column: We're in the middle of winter.

So, what's the good news? Well, simply put: We're in the middle of winter. In other words, things will only get better from here.

Already our days are getting noticeably longer and a month from now they should be getting noticeably warmer, too. Maybe not warm enough for varnish, bottom paint, or epoxy work, but very likely warm enough to not have to shovel a path through the snow to get to our boats in the boat yard.

If you're even remotely involved with any of our club committees, then you're already in the thick of spring and summer activity planning. My personal experience is that not only does this help the winter go by a bit faster, but it also provides some much needed "boat therapy" during the months where it's simply too cold even to just sit on my boat for a spell.

The Finger Lakes Yacht Club, where I'm a member of their Race Committee, is planning their race and social calendar. District 6 of the Power Squadron, where I serve as District Education Officer, is planning its Spring Conference and our

local chapter is finalizing plans for the next major courses we will be offering this spring and summer.

Where am I going with this? Simple: There are some wonderful benefits to being involved with the groups you join. As an involved member of multiple boating groups, I can attest there is a lot of activity in the "off" season to distract from the cold weather outside and to provide anticipation for the coming boating season.

My message to you? Be involved! Yes, sometimes there is a little "work" involved, but even that can be fun!

- Your Editor, Tom

o o o o o

As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o

## Calendar of Events

### March 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 03 Marine Navigation course begins, *Montour Falls, NY* (1900)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 24 Registration deadline for D6 Spring Conference.

### April 2022

- 08-10 District 6 Spring Council & Conference, *Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY*. (D/6)
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- 26 ABCourse begins, *Waterloo, NY*

### May 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 02 Sail course begins, *Montour Falls & Watkins Glen, NY* (1900)
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 21-27 Safe Boating Week (National)

### June 2022

- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

### July 2022

- TBA Engine Maintenance course begins.
- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 22 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)
- 29-31 Seneca Lake Rendezvous & BOC Training Event.

### August 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 26 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

### September 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 11-18 Governing Board Meeting, *Raleigh, NC* (National)
- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)

### October 2022

- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* articles
- TBA District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)

### November 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* November issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* fall issue publication date. (D/6)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)

### December 2022

- 16 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

### January 2023

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* January issue publication date
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Finger Lakes Change of Watch
- 20 Deadline for D/6 *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

### February 2023

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 19-26 USPS Annual Meeting, *Orlando, FL* (National)
- 20 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

Calendars are "living documents." For the latest information on squadron activities, please check our web site:

<http://www.abc-flx.org>

or our Facebook page:

<http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron>

for any last-minute changes.

# D6 SPRING CONFERENCE RESERVATION FORM

Corrected – 2/26/2022

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hotel:

Friday, April 8: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, April 9: \_\_\_\_\_ Total at \$125 per night \$ \_\_\_\_\_

King Bed: \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Queen Beds: \_\_\_\_\_ ADA Room: \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals:

Reservations for Dutch Treat dinner at 205 Dry on Friday Night \_\_\_\_\_ # People at \_\_\_\_\_  
o'clock.

Do you have any dietary restrictions? (Vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, lacto free, etc.)

# Lunch Buffets: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Buffet Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$38 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hotel &amp; Meals: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total if Paid by March 24: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee if Paid after March 24 : + 5%. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total with Late Fee (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 24, 2022**  
**LATE FEE OF 5% WILL BE ADDED AFTER THIS DATE.**  
**FOR A FULL REFUND, CANCELLATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY**  
**APRIL 1, 2022.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USPS DISTRICT 6

SEND RESERVATION FORM &amp; CHECKS TO:

D/Lt Bridgett Arieno, JN

139 Shore Dr.,

Rochester, NY, 14622