

# 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 .....3
- Secretary's Sidenotes .....5
- Water Lines .....6
- Upcoming Classes & Seminars .....7
  - Boat Operator Certification.....7
  - Seminar: Mariner's Compass .....7
  - Engine Maintenance.....7
  - America's Boating Course (ABC).....7
  - Seminar – Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach.....7
  - Seminar – Anchoring with Assurance 8
  - How to Register .....8
  - Looking for Something?.....8
- Long-Term Class Schedule.....9
- USPS News: Local, District, National & More ..... 11
  - Happy Birthday! ..... 11
  - District Mini-Rendezvous..... 11
  - Vessel Safety Exam ..... 11
  - Got News? ..... 11
- A Modern-Day Noah ..... 12
- The Last Word ..... 15
- Calendar of Events..... 16

Report any errors or omissions to:  
[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

### From The Commander

By *Phil Cherry, S*                      *SV Harmony*

#### View from the Bridge

I write this on the eve of a planned vacation to Italy and Greece where my wife and I are finally taking that 9-night cruise through the Mediterranean. We had it booked back in 2020, but of course we all know how plans change due to Covid. But now, two years later, we've finally getting to go. We prefer Disney cruise line over most others, largely because we're a Disney family, and have been since 2000, when we invested in Disney Vacation Club, a program we still love and enjoy to this day.

When my wife and I relocated to the Schuyler County area seven years ago, we said that now that we had found the perfect summer location, that we'd never leave Watkins Glen for a summer vacation ever again... why should we when we have the best of summer right here? But alas, we came to appreciate that many other locations are beautiful in the summer as well, so we've had to adapt.



Still, it breaks my heart to be leaving here for what will be about two weeks, while my sailboat sits in her slip, awaiting some TLC, and some Seneca Lake time.

Did you know that the Erie Canal, including Seneca Lake and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, are now part of New York State Canalway Water Trail? In celebration of Great Outdoors Month and National Trails Day on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland recently announced the designation of nine new national recreation trails in seven states, adding nearly 600 miles to the [National Trails System](#). The newly designated trails join a network of more than 1,300 existing national recreation trails, which can be

found in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The newly recognized New York State Canalway Water Trail is comprised of over 450 miles of land cut canals, and interconnected lakes and rivers with more than 150 public access points for boaters and paddlers. The water trail follows the New York State Canal System across the full expanse of upstate New York, including our own Seneca Cayuga canal and the Oswego and Champlain spurs. Will this change anything for us? Not likely, although more recognition might translate into more use, but I'm not too worried. I just think it's cool that our little piece of heaven here in the Finger Lakes is recognized for its excellent recreational opportunities and natural beauty, two benefits worth protecting.

The other big canal news was also released lately. According to Governor Kathy Hochul's office, New York State has been selected by [Inland Waterways International](#) as the host of the 2025 World Canals Conference, an event that brings together hundreds of canal and inland waterway enthusiasts, professionals and scholars from around the world to learn about a variety of topics related to canals. The 2025 conference will be held in Buffalo as the State commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Erie Canal's opening there in 1825. The New

York Power Authority, New York State Canal Corporation, and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in partnership with the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation and Visit Buffalo Niagara, are the joint sponsors and will be coordinating all aspects of the conference. Bring it on!

Did you see the press last month for Safe Boating Week that highlighted our PFD trees and the services our club offers to boaters in the area? For a small investment of club funds, we were able to furnish PFDs for families that maybe can't afford one, or left them at home, while they kayak or boat in our area. It's those kinds of community service that make the Finger Lakes a destination for families, boating enthusiasts and wine junkies everywhere.

Lastly, I just want to put a plug in for our summer rendezvous up at Sampson State Park in late July. It promises to be an excellent adventure and one packed with educational opportunities for boaters to learn more about safe boating while having a little fun. I look forward to seeing all our members participate, although I'm sure some of you may have other plans that weekend. In any event, I'll see you down on the docks!

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

## 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, S

[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.

## From the Administrative Officer

By Maggie Martin

SV Wined 'n' Down

### Summer Meeting in July



Our next meeting will take place at Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards on the East side of Seneca Lake.

We will be in the 'Oasis' Gazebo, and they have graciously offered us the space after their regular business hours for a small fee. We

will meet at 6PM on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. As it is the date of the regularly scheduled monthly bridge meeting, we will have a brief business meeting, followed by happy hour, possibly in that order. The club will provide a light meal, and as always, your donations are appreciated.

Yes, the bar will be open.

You won't want to miss our guest speaker – Doug Hazlitt has offered to speak about... boats! He has built, restored, sailed, and owned historic vessels. His availability is tentative, hinging on if the schooner *Palawan* is launched

and ready to sail to Maine with Doug on board!

We hope to see you all there for this summer get together. It should be a good time. Hazlitt has been harvesting happiness since 1852. They are located at 5712 NY Rt. 414, in Hector NY. RSVP by July 8<sup>th</sup> to Phil Cherry:

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

if you plan to attend.

- Maggie

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

## From the Education Director

By Jim McGinnis, SN-IN

SV Brewster

### Summertime Thoughts



Summer is here, and boats are in the water. This is what it's all about for us. I

am in Maine this week helping my brother John get his 1972 36-foot center cockpit Gulf Star sailboat commissioned and in the water in Belfast, Maine. The boat is 17,000 lbs and has an 80HP Lehman Diesel. The Lehman company, (which created marine versions of Ford Diesel Engines) no longer exists but aftermarket parts

are available for filters and the like.

*S/V Hooligan* is on a mooring ball this year and we are learning to maintain the batteries charge with a solar panel. We bent the sails on yesterday and headed out of the harbor for a short test sail. Picking up the mooring ball was a "piece of cake" and John developed the skill to do it single handed.

We finished the day in light air, bobbing in the harbor at the mooring and grilling swordfish for dinner as the sun set.



Photo 1: A marinated Ford 2712E engine.

## Sampson Boater Weekend

As you probably know, ABC-FLX will be heading to Sampson for the weekend of July 29, 30 and 31. On Friday, Boats will sail/motor from Watkins Glen to Sampson State Park Marina.

There is a food truck there and live band at the Vista for sunset right above the lake. During the trip to Sampson, we will be conducting the Coastal Navigator Certification for one of the boats. This includes Navigation both with paper charts and electronic Chart Plotter Systems.

On Saturday, we will be providing Hands-On-Training (HOT) on your boat (or ours) for the skills leading up to Inland Navigator Certification – These are basic boater safety, basic boat handling, leaving the dock, anchoring, returning to the dock and cover a variety of skills from engine operations to VHF radios and marine electronics. For those who have the experience and the skills already, we will be conducting the Inland Navigator Certification testing. On Saturday night, we are planning for a pitch in cook-out right on the dockside area of Sampson Marina. Bring a dish to pass. If you are not available for the whole weekend, plan to drive up to Sampson to take part in any of the events on Saturday.

Sunday will be the trip back to Watkins Glen and another certification for a Coastal Navigator. If you are an ABC-FLX instructor and available to help with the “hands on” classes or an ABC-FLX member with an interest in building hands on boating skills at any level, please let me know.

To make a reservation for a boat slip contact [Marina - Seneca Lake Resorts](#) To make a reservation for training or certification please send me a note by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Should be a terrific weekend!

## Classes

We have an ABC class planned for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in the member facility at the Watkins Glen Yacht Club. See the class listing for details. We are also looking to continue to offer our classes across the Finger Lakes Region. I am working on setting up a class for a Seneca Lake organization in Geneva this month.

We completed our Sail class last week and had a total of 13 students that attended the classes. Exams have been completed and we expect great results as the students worked very hard to absorb the sailing terminology and skills. The sail class is a fundamental class for anyone wishing to take a sailboat on the water. We work to avoid getting “in irons” but are able to get out when the inevitable occurs. We focused the students on theory, principles and basics learning for a couple sessions, then for three Friday evenings they were out “on the water” developing the skills they have been taught.

We are conducting the Engine Maintenance class for 10 weeks starting July 11<sup>th</sup>. This class covers inboards and outboards, diesel and gasoline engines, and their maintenance. It is a comprehensive class and provides the students with an excellent manual to future reference for boat maintenance and repair tasks. Engine

Maintenance is a required class to achieve “Inland Navigator” Certification in the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) Program. Take a look at your schedule for Monday evenings this summer and consider this class.

## Seminars

We are also planning several seminars this July that are required for the Coastal Navigator Certification. *Mariners Compass*, *Anchoring* and *Navigation Rules* are 2-hour sessions that provide an update on these topics and an opportunity to refresh your skills. Look for emails from me as we get these seminars on the schedule.

As always, 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 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 for refreshments at *S/V Brewster* at Slip 219 on Dock 2 in the Watkins Glen Marina.

- Jim

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

## Secretary's Sidenotes

By Andrew Price

Secretary

### Summer Opportunities



Boating season is well underway, and the marina is bustling with boats and people and festivities planned for the

Summer. In the midst of all this, ABC-FLX is busily engaging boaters in the many courses offered by the club. You may have noticed the instructors and students gathering beneath the flagpole near the parking lot.

The range of subjects is comprehensive, and any of them will improve your seamanship.

If you look, you will see the list is impressive. In short, there are courses in boating safety, advanced skills, short seminars, certification programs, and even

informal sessions. Have a look!

You will find the list here:

<http://www.abc-flx.org/index.php/education>.

Additionally, advancing through these courses can confer upon the student the USPS Grades and Certifications, such as AP (Advanced Pilot) or IN (Inland Navigator) to name a few.

Given the numerous offerings, it may not be easy to know where to start. However, because New York is phasing in the requirement for a boating safety course through 2025, with boaters of all ages and experience required to have a boating safety certificate by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the best place to start might be with the ABC Boating Safety course. The club is planning a boating safety course for Watkins Glen this Summer, so if you need your safety certificate, you are in luck!

Not all courses are available all the time, so, you can visit <http://www.abc-flx.org/index.php/upcoming-events> to see

classes that may be starting, and you can also check this newsletter for upcoming offerings. As well, some courses are prerequisite to others, so to learn the order of courses and requirements for the different certificates, you can visit <http://www.abc-flx.org/index.php/education/course-map>.

The courses are not only a great education and way to improve boating knowledge and skills, but they are also a way to encounter new people and engage the club socially. Having taken a few of the courses, both in person, online, and remotely, I can attest to the depth and breadth of them! The courses are long enough to engage a deep level of information, and the material is interesting and challenging enough to make the courses worth taking. Check the end of this newsletter for the upcoming offerings and sign up! You will be glad you did!

- Andrew  
secretary@abc-flx.org

# Water Lines

By Glenda Gephart

Public Relations Officer

## Lake Friendly Living



If you're reading this, you most likely have a boat at a marina, in a lift or on a trailer. But are you one of the mil-

lions of Americans who own a kayak – or two?

According to Paddling Magazine, the pandemic, with its shutdowns and social distancing, saw the largest boom in paddlesports history. The website Statista.com reports 18.12 million people kayaked in 2020, up more than 2 million from 2019's number of 16.62 million.

Kayaking is watersport that has so much going for it: It's good for you physically. It's good for you mentally. It gets you outside and on the water. It's fairly affordable, and if you don't want to buy, you can rent.

Many kayak rental businesses are located in the Finger Lakes Region. And there are many opportunities to enjoy the sport alone or with like-minded folks. The Finger Lakes Museum in Branchport, for example, offers several kayak

experiences on Keuka Lake throughout the summer. Check out the schedule at [www.finger-lakesmuseum.org/events](http://www.finger-lakesmuseum.org/events). They even offer lessons.

Knowing the basics of kayaking safety is crucial, whether you're enjoying a small pond or a big lake; a canal or a river. Our chapter of America's Boating Club has offered courses in the past. (That's how I became a member!)

Internet sites tell us that kayaks were developed centuries ago, with archeologists dating the oldest discovered kayak to be around 4000 years old. People who lived in the regions presently known as Canada, Greenland and Alaska are believed to be the first people

to use what we would recognize as a kayak. The word kayak originally meant "hunter boat," as they were likely in hunting sea creatures such as fish and seals.

A so-called "fishing kayak" is one of the most popular styles today. Sea kayaks and whitewater kayaks are other styles. Sit-in, sit-on. Hard-shell or inflatable. Lots of choices, and there are experts eager to explain them all.

No explanation needed, however, of the fun of kayaking. For us boat owners, launching onto the lake for time in a kayak can be a wonderful experience.

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



Photo 2: Photo courtesy of the Finger Lakes Museum.

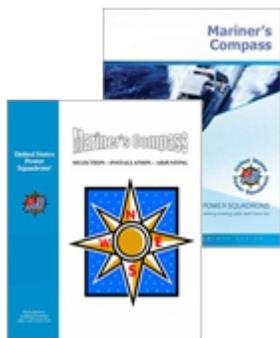
## Upcoming Classes & Seminars

### Boat Operator Certification

Three seminars are required for the Boat Operator Certification – Coastal Navigation. They are about 2½ hours each. Two seminars, *Rules of the Road* and *Anchoring*, are available at USPS Online Education. For \$24.95 Each. *The Mariner's Compass* seminar will be offered this month as a classroom course. Sign up for the on-line classes at USPSonline. Look for an email from me for the *Mariner's Compass* seminar.

Also, don't forget our certification event at Sampson at the end of July!

### Seminar: Mariner's Compass



Even in the electronics age, a compass is essential for safe boating. Learn how to select and install a compass on your boat, which features are most important and what will work best for you, how to deal with variation between true and magnetic north, and how to adjust your compass to remove most of the deviation caused by local magnetic influences. This is an essential seminar for all boaters. You'll also

receive Student Notes with copies of slides. A copy of the USPS Guide *Mariner's Compass* is optionally available.

What's included?

- Compass types
- Compass selection
- Compass errors
- Earth's magnetic forces
- Magnetic variation
- Deviation
- Installation on your boat

**Where:** Location TBA.

**When:** Mid-July.

**Course fee:** \$25

**Instructor:** Tom Alley

### Engine Maintenance

A 10-week course to help you better understand the iron beast in your boat. Some sessions will be held aboard vessels to provide some hands-on experience.

**Where:**

- **Classroom** - Montour Falls Human Resource Building.
- **On-the-Water** - Watkins Glen Village Marina.

**When:** Begins July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Course fee:** \$85.

**Instructor:** Jim McGinnis & others.

### America's Boating Course (ABC)

America's Boating Course (ABC) An 8-hour introductory course that will satisfy the Boater's Safety requirements for New

York State as well as put you on the path to becoming a more knowledgeable (and safer) boater. This class includes an optional "on-the-water" section leaving from the Watkins Glen Marina.

**When:** August 18<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM  
August 27<sup>th</sup> (4 hrs) 10 AM to 2PM

**Where:** Watkins Glen Yacht Club

**Course fee** \$45.

### Seminar – Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach

*Rules of the Road* is offered as a seminar and as part of the Boat Handling course.

Navigational rules of the road help you know what to do when you share the water with other boats, how to recognize and signal intentions, and how to avoid collision. This seminar focuses in a practical way on helping you understand the basic rules encountered by recreational boaters during most every boating outing and the rules most likely to apply in the local waters where you boat. It covers skipper responsibilities, general rules and definitions, rules to avoid collision, lights and shapes, and sound and light signals.

This self-study seminar consists of a comprehensive 42-page PDF Student Guide and a fully narrated online learning module which present like classroom PowerPoint presentations but give the student total control of the pace and sequence of the slides.

Ask your local squadron about on-the-water coaching to help you practice recognizing local situations, the rules that apply, and the actions you should take. And be sure to read the United States Coast Guard's *Navigational Rules and Regulations Handbook* for the authoritative word on all rules of the road, since - as the skipper or designated crew member - you are responsible to know the rules that apply anywhere you boat.

**Where:** Online.

**When:** On Demand

**Course fee:** \$24.95

---

## Seminar – Anchoring with Assurance

*Anchoring with Assurance* is offered as a seminar and as part of the *Boat Handling* course.

Anchoring is the skill of securing your vessel to the bottom through the use of line, chain, and one or more anchors. Whether it's for fishing, swimming, a lunch break, or an overnight stop, one of the real pleasures in boating is "hanging on the hook" in some quiet spot. Emergencies such as loss of power, equipment breakdown or failure, or weather hazard may

also require that your boat be anchored for a time.

Good seamanship demands that all boaters know how to anchor safely. Our anchoring topics begin with how to select an anchorage and how to anchor depending on conditions. After learning how anchors should be used, you will know if yours are satisfactory or - if you don't already have equipment - what kind(s) to buy. The seminar covers useful anchoring tips and tricks and concludes by discussing how to moor and raft safely. Also included is how to use and tie the two knots most often used when anchoring: the anchor bend and the figure-eight knot.

This self-study seminar consists of a comprehensive 38-page PDF Student Guide and a fully narrated online learning module which present like classroom PowerPoint presentations but give the student total control of the pace and sequence of the slides.

Ask your local squadron about on-the-water coaching to help you practice your skills with assurance, so you don't get carried away.

**Where:** Online.

**When:** On Demand

**Course fee:** \$24.95

---

## How to Register

How to Register If you have questions about any of these courses, or better yet, if you wish to sign up, please contact: Finger Lakes Chapter Jim McGinnis

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

or call 607-346-5408 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

Seneca Education Department

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

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Advanced Coastal Navigator	Classes	Advanced Marine Navigation	X		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	Offshore Navigation	X				X	
	Sem.	Computer Weather Forecasting			X			
		Thunderstorms / Severe Weather			X			
	Skills	Offshore Navigation			X			
		CPR/AED						
Endorsmentss		Sail	C		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					

**Table Key**

X = Planned

C = Completed

# USPS News: Local, District, National & More

## Happy Birthday!

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

### July

Andrew Price  
James Gerdes  
Sherri Mansfield  
Jacqueline Honsberger  
Cindy Swank  
Terry Mason  
Kris West

### August

Mary Honsberger  
Greg Seip  
Helene Ongacre-Price  
Peter Wigley  
Christa Wolf  
Bob Sisbarro  
Laurie Seip  
Bob MacBlane  
Tom Alley

## District Mini-Rendezvous

*By Karen Green, Member Involvement*

As the summer is truly beginning, the SSPS is organizing several Happy Hours along the beautiful St. Lawrence Seaway Trail.

With many thanks to Commodore and SSPS member, Mike Paetow, the SSPS and other Squadrons are invited for a Chicken and Rib Barbecue at

the beautiful Clayton Yacht Club located at 115 Bartlett Point Road in Clayton, New York on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting for cocktails at 5:00 pm followed by a delicious chicken and rib barbecue prepared especially for our group at 6:00 pm.

There will be a flat fee of \$25.00 which includes tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available.

Reservations are required and must be made to Karen Green at [Greenkm@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Greenkm@twcny.rr.com) or 315-559-0581 **NO LATER THAN July 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Commodore Paetow will have some docking available at the Yacht Club for those traveling by boat. Again, reservations must be made to Karen Green and the size of dock you will need is required.

The SSPS is planning additional Happy Hour events along the St. Lawrence as summer progresses.

Please watch your e-mails for more details.

Summer is such a short season!! I look forward to seeing you back on the water and in Clayton at the Clayton Yacht Club on July 8<sup>th</sup>!!

Safe and happy boating!

*-Karen Green,  
SSPS Member Involvement  
[Greenkm@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Greenkm@twcny.rr.com)  
315-559-0581*

## Vessel Safety Exam

*By Ray Margeson*

Don't forget to get your vessel safety exam to ensure your boat is in compliance with US Coast Guard and NYS standards. The process 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).

## 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

# A Modern-Day Noah

## 84-Year-Old Spends 40 Years Building Huge Wooden Boat in His Garage—And He’s Still Working on It

By Anna Mason

TheEpochTimes.com



*This article appeared in the online version of The Epoch Times on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. All photos courtesy of Judith Hable and Jesse Yang.*

o o o o o

Bill Hable was 47 when he started building himself a boat. Now the former mechanical engineer from Bloomer, Wisconsin, is 84 years old — and still working on it.

The magnificent 41-foot wooden schooner is kept in a large boathouse Hable built at his home. Every week, three days a week, he takes himself into the shed and immerses himself in the mammoth, decades-long project.

So, when is it expected to be done?

“Don’t ask”, Hable told The Epoch Times. “I don’t know if I’ll ever get it done.”

Talking to the skilled craftsman, it quickly became apparent the appeal of his undertaking lay in the journey, more so than the destination.

“The purpose of it was to get physical exercise,” he said.

In the fall of 1984, Hable was an engineer with a desk job. He worked his way through college helping build and repair boats, and later found himself with 70 acres of land,

cutting firewood, and relishing the activity.

“I had always wanted to build a boat, but I never got around to it,” he recalled. “I didn’t get enough exercise, so I said, well, why don’t I build this boat I’ve always dreamed about?”





Hable decided the vessel should be big enough to allow him to retire free of debt. So, on January 4, 1985, he went into his woods and cut down the first trees for his schooner.

“Then I cut more trees, and milled the lumber for about 75 to 80 percent of it,” he said. “It was supposed to be 15 years — I wanted to retire at 62. Well, I’m 84 now and I’m not retired yet.”

Estimated to weigh around 24,000 pounds when it finally hits the water, and holding beds for seven people, the vessel has taken a ton of time and money. When asked how much he has spent on it, Hable shrugs.

“I did not keep track of time, money, or anything else. I’ll tell you why: it’s been worth it and I didn’t want to ... I didn’t care,” he said.

“If I had a guess, I’d say I’ve probably spent \$70,000—\$80,000. I spent a lot on epoxy glue, and hardware. And I bought a diesel motor — that was quite expensive.”

Hable and his boat have received a good deal of attention over the decades.

“We’re located right in Bloomer, next to a restaurant and a bar. People come over and talk to me all the time,” he said. “I get visitors from literally all over the world.”

Sometimes, different groups make arrangements to come in, and Hable takes them on a tour.

“I taught at the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire, for nine years. So I like to teach,

and I enjoy doing that,” the engineer explained.

Crediting his education, Hable says he had “a very, very good industrial arts teacher in high school” who taught him woodworking, and some of the skills he still uses today. He also spends a lot of time just figuring things out.

(Courtesy of Judith Hable)

“You spend about a third of your time just thinking about how you’re going to do things,” he told the newspaper.

The most difficult part to build was the frame for the transit. Hable got a stack of books to help him, but says they each gave conflicting advice.

“I did not like any of the answers. So I sat, literally sat and thought for two weeks. And I finally got it built and it came out perfect,” he recalled.

Hable met his wife — who was born in upstate New York and is talented in floral design artwork — while he was at college. But clearly, his sailboat project he prefers to work on solo.



“About 95 percent of the time, it was just me. But for three months in the summertime,” he said. “over three summers, my brother and my cousin would come and help strip-plank the boat. You can’t use epoxy in the wintertime because it’s too cold.”

The ultimate plan, Hable says, is to take the finished item to an island in the middle of the local yacht club, where he already has a 49-foot sailboat.

“That’s where I plan to launch it if I ever get around to it. The work is just taking longer than expected and slowing up a little bit,” he shared.

So what takeaways can this modern-day Noah share from his 37 years of constructing the beautiful-looking boat?

“I think that people should look at exercise as doing something that is useful” he said. If you’re running or walking and all you get is worn down shoes — there’s nothing to show for it.

“You’ve got to be able to think about whether it would be wonderful to do something, something of value,” said Hable. “I

tried running and walking and lifting weights and I hated it. So that’s why I decided to build a boat, which I love.”

He added: “I still love doing it. Sometimes I get a little bit bored. But then you get that small increment done and you pat yourself on the back and you go sit at the house and grab a beer.”

o o o o o

*Anna Mason is a writer based in England. She has a degree in*

*Literature and a curiosity about people and places that formal education would*

*not satiate. Anna enjoys storytelling, adventures, the Balearic sunshine and the Yorkshire rain.*



## The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN



Author Douglas Adams once said he loved deadlines and the swoosh noise they

made as they sped by. I can’t say I share that sentiment. To me, they make a blaring noise like a locomotive horn as it is about to run you over.

For the past several months I’ve been hearing a series of locomotive horns, one after another and often several at once in surround sound. I’ve shared with a number of you that one of my ambitions in life is to experience boredom – just once – just to see what it’s like! I don’t think there’s any danger of that happening soon, however.

One reason for this is that it’s officially summer and *Tomfoolery* is afloat in her slip. That means there are all sorts of things I would like to accomplish this summer: Yacht club activities, ABC Chapter activities, and of course, some unstructured “me time” with my boat. Is it any wonder summers seem so short?

### Travel Plans

2022 is a year with no big travel plans. It’s time to catch up on maintenance items resulting from last year’s big trip to the Atlantic. It’s also a year to begin planning for revisiting waters closer to home – such as Lake Ontario. If this is something that has interested you, please reach out to me and we’ll see if we can’t get a fleet of local boats heading north next summer to do some exploring there.

That doesn’t mean *Tomfoolery* won’t be doing anything this

SV *Tomfoolery*

year. We will be attending the Sampson event at the end of July, and we will be returning to the north end of Seneca Lake in September for our annual participation in the Seneca Yacht Club Barge Race.

### The Usual Suspects

As always, there is my persistent plea for material to publish. It’s a safe bet that people love to read articles on DIY projects or trips you’ve taken. Other subjects might include your review of a class you’ve taken, either from us locally or from another squadron. And don’t worry if you “can’t write”. It’s the Editor’s job to make you look good – and he will!

Enjoy your summer. See you on the water – and hopefully in Sampson, too!

- Your Editor, Tom

*As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:*

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

## Calendar of Events

### July 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 08 Syracuse Sail & Power Happy Hour, *Clayton, NY*. (D/6)
- 11 Engine Maintenance Course begins (1900).
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 15 Mariner's Compass Seminar (1900).
- 22 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)
- 29-31 Seneca Lake Rendezvous & BOC Training Event, *Sampson State Park Marina*.

### August 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 18 ABCourse begins, *Watkins Glen Yacht Club* (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

### March 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)

### April 2022

- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- TBA District 6 Spring Council & Conference (D/6)

### May 2023

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 20-26 Safe Boating Week (National)

### June 2023

- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 23 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.*