

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters®




THE DRUM

A Publication of the Finger Lakes Chapter

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editor@abc-flx.org

From The Commander

By Jim McGinnis, AP SV Brewster

View from the Bridge

I'd like to offer a huge thank you to our members, instructors, and Officers for supporting us throughout the last year. Special thanks to John Flick and Rachael Nichols for their service on the Boating Club Bridge in 2020! I'd also like to congratulate our new slate of officers and committee chairs on the commitment to serve our Chapter. This year we have added Dee Stafford as Secretary and Jim Morris as the Assistant Education Officer.

We pledged our current officers and these new leaders through a first ever online Change of Watch (COW) on January 17th, 2021 at 1PM. In a Free Conference Call meeting, we installed the new slate of Officers for 2021 with support from the District 6 Secretary David Daniels who represented District Commander Nancy Bieber.

Our Club meeting was followed up with a presentation by Ed



Wightman of the Finger Lakes Boating Museum on the Restoration of the the *Pat II*. The *Pat II* is a 39-foot launch built in 1924, which served as a tour boat in the Thousand Islands from 1924 to 1955. A number of members who joined the COW online also enjoyed that presentation.

For our primary objectives in 2021, we look to our purpose as an organization. We want to commit to continuously improving our efforts in Boat Safety, Boating Education, Community Service and engaging our ABC-FLX members.

Membership Activity

We must work to reboot our level of social connection. We've been

socially distancing for a long time now and getting pretty dismayed by it. We will endeavor to increase our connections this year and join our boating friends when on land and on the water. The online Change of Watch and Boating Museum presentation was a good starting point.

District 6 Spring Conference

April 9th – 11th, 2021 will be the District 6 Spring Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Corning.

- **Friday** Conference Registration is 4:00 – 6:30PM with a District Meeting at 6:45PM.
- **Saturday** Registration is 7:30 – 10:00AM with the Conference Meeting at 8:30AM, There will be a combination of speakers and presentations in the afternoon.
- **Saturday Evening Conference Banquet:** The banquet includes your choice of a served dinner, and a drawing for the Gift Basket raffle. To donate a gift basket, please contact Lynne McGinnis at 607-426-7914.

Your invitation to attend will be e-mailed to all members with the District 6 Spring Conference Registration form as soon as they are available.

Summer Weekend at Sampson Marina

This will be a super weekend at Sampson with socially safe group activities and cookouts. Last year we had a traditional *Welcome to Sampson Bloody Mary* with Don and Marge Kloeber on Saturday morning. Awesome way to start the day! We organized a GPS scavenger hunt that everyone enjoyed and built some electronic

navigational skills at the same time. The weekend is tentatively planned for July 30th to August 1st and we will consider conducting some of the evaluations on the water for Boat Operator Certification. Please consider attending this event on your boat or by driving up to join us at Sampson.

Safety and Community Service

We will commission a second Life Jacket Tree this year, we have had one at the Clute Park Kayak Launch and will add another this year off Boat Launch road in the Clute Park Campground. These have been effective in providing life jackets to those in need and reminding boaters of the importance of wearing a life jacket.

We will also work to publicize National Safe Boating Week May 22nd-28th, 2021 and emphasize the critical “Life Jacket – Wear it Campaign”. Consider that in two thirds of all boating accidents, victims have drowned. Of those victims, 90% were not wearing a life jacket of any kind. Of recorded incidents where an individual falls overboard or their boat capsizes, 44% lead to a fatality. Our goal is to change those odds and encourage the use of lifejackets for sailors, kayakers, sportsmen, fishermen, and all recreational boaters.

We will be conducting Vessel Safety Exams as soon as we can do it in the safe and effective manner.

Boating Education

We will be continuing to execute on our long-term course

The Drum

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plan and this year add several seminars that people have been asking for. We are currently conducting the Electronic Navigation Course. We will begin socially distanced America's Boating Club basic courses as soon as this spring.

If possible, we will be taking our first steps with Boat Operator Certification (BOC). What is BOC? – It's a program that USPS has had for many years that includes hands-on skills proficiency in boating. The BOC Program certifies USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency. Each level of certification requires achievement of

prior levels, the successful completion of particular skills and seminars, plus the demonstration of essential skills on the water. There are four levels in the program:

- Inland Navigator
- Coastal Navigator
- Advanced Coastal Navigator
- Offshore Navigator

The benefit of BOC to our members is in building confidence in boating skills with an eye towards venturing beyond Seneca Lake for our boating opportunities. If you are interested in participating, we are looking for our initial BOC candidates and also for members to eventually become trained

BOC Certifiers. For more information contact me or Charlie Fausold.

I hope you are getting excited about the up coming boating season. I know we are. Lynne and I have been very fortunate to spend the winter in Florida and have been visiting friends with boats here as well. See you on the water very soon.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

- Jim, SV Brewster
co@abc-flx.org

From the Executive Officer

By Phil Cherry, S

SV Harmony

Climate Friendly Living



Before relocating to Watkins Glen from Delaware in 2016, I used to ponder where in the United States was a

good place to live considering what the experts were telling us about climate change. It's just an interesting question to ponder... where can you move to (within the US) that will see the least impacts from climate change? We know sea level will rise, we know temperatures will be warmer and the weather more severe... so where do you go to minimize

those impacts on yourself, your family and your fortunes? I wasn't so much worried about my wife or me, but my children and grandchildren will inherit our estate and it would be foolish to leave them with assets that might be endangered by a changing climate.

If you are one of the few thinking individuals who do not yet embrace the science of climate change, you might as well stop reading and go back to your hole. The science is settled...the only thing that we're unsure of now is how fast and how far the climate will change and what impact our mitigation measures will have on the trajectory of change.

Depending on where you are in the US, scientists project sea level

rise (SLR) of between 1-3 meters by the end of this century, depending on global emission levels of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane. That's a significant rise that will have devastating consequences for many coastal communities across the US, so investing in that ocean-front condo may not be such a good idea – not because it will get washed away anytime soon, but as soon as the real estate market takes SLR seriously, I expect we'll see major changes in the valuation of coastal real estate, and it won't be pretty. So, I'll scratch coastal areas off my list of relocation possibilities.

Warmer temperatures are also expected, as we've seen already. Places like Florida, the gulf coast

and the southwest are already too hot for me (at least in summer) so any increase in temperatures in these locations will certainly make matters worse. So, I'll cross the south off my list as well.

Then there's the issue of severe weather. How all those nice folks in Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma can live year after year under the threat of tornadoes is beyond me. And it's going to get worse as time goes by. The same goes for hurricanes along the south and east coasts and the different sort of severe weather like we're seeing in Texas these recent days. Nope, I don't look to relocating to the Midwest anytime soon, and coastal regions have already been eliminated.

The Pacific northwest holds some promise, but they have the threat of earthquakes out there, so I'll scratch off anywhere west of the continental divide on the grounds that earthquakes terrify me.

That leaves the Great Lakes area, which includes us here in

Schuyler County and the Finger lakes generally. We can expect all the same impacts here as well (except maybe SLR) but hopefully not to the degree or with the consequences noted above. There was a very good study released recently by the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC - www.ELPC.org) studying the impact climate change will have on the Great lakes. It's well written and informative and one of the few good analyses of expected climate impacts done on a relatively local scale. It can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3loy79uv>

and on ELPC's website and I urge readers to check it out, as the topic is far more complex than I've portrayed here.

One of the issues of importance to us as Finger Lakes boaters is lake levels. This is also a complicated topic, not only impacted by climate and precipitation, but by dams and flow control rules that seem to have many masters. I've

not found a lot of information about lake levels and climate change and even the ELPC study seems to waffle on expected impacts. My sense is that lake levels will be influenced more by precipitation changes than any other climate impact, and given the expected slight changes in annual precipitation patterns, it would seem likely that climate change itself will not dramatically affect lake levels any time soon. That's the good news.

The point in all this is that we seem to have moved to just the right spot!! Not too warm, not too cold, not too stormy, not too wet or dry. A good place to invest in and to ride out the climate wave that is coming to this and future generations.

- Phil

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From the Education Director

By Charlie Fausold, SN-IN

Ready, Set, Learn!



As this issue of *The Drum* goes to press, our class on Electronic Navigation is winding

down. Four members from the Syracuse Sail and Power squadron joined several ABC-FLX

members in this virtual course delivered over the *FreeConfer-enceCall* platform. Concurrently, four ABC-FLX members have been taking Engine Maintenance with the Syracuse Squadron, also offered remotely.

With the first tentative signs that the Coronavirus pandemic is beginning to ease just a bit, we can start to carefully plan our return to in-person education. Wearing masks, social distancing and all

those other behaviors we have been practicing will be with us for a while, and we need to be cautious and flexible, but better days are ahead. With that in mind, several educational activities are planned for this spring.

Full details appear in the *Upcoming Classes & Seminars* section further on in this newsletter.

Sail Trim and Rig Tuning Tuesday, March 23rd, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Are you getting the most out of your sailboat? Learn how to set up your boat's rigging and how to use and adjust your sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. You'll sail like a pro using the tips from this seminar, offered over the *FreeConferenceCall* platform using your computer. The seminar includes a copy of the Student Notes.

Instructor: Mike Crouse

Trailer Your Boat Seminar, Tuesday, April 12th, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Overcome boating boredom by trailering your boat to areas with better fishing, weather, or camping facilities. You'll gain the skills and tips needed to safely move your trailerable boat as well as maintenance hints and boat ramp etiquette. Get tips on protecting your gear before, during, and after

transit, and learn the "one-block rule".

This two-hour seminar, offered over the *FreeConferenceCall* platform using your computer, includes how to select tow vehicles, hitches, and trailers, how to safely and securely trailer your boat, launch it, and retrieve it, and how to operate and maintain your trailering equipment.

Instructor: John Flick

Boat Handling Course, May 6 – June 12

Our new *Boat Handling* course is intended for newer recreational boaters who have completed a basic boating class (like *America's Boating Course*) and want to gain more knowledge, skill, and confidence to boat safely and have more fun in a variety of situations.

Completion of all six classes and achieving a passing grade on the

exam will earn the "Seaman" grade, the first of five America's Boating Club advanced grades.

America's Boating Course, March 2021

This 8-hour course provides an introduction to boating. Passing the exam will earn the New York State Boating Safety Certificate, which will soon be required of all operators of power-driven vessels in New York.

Our first ABC class this year is tentatively planned for March in Waterloo, NY and is aimed at employees of several of the marinas at the north end of the lake. ABC-FLX member Dennis Daniels, SN, will be the lead instructor.

More ABC classes will be announced as we get into the season. As a reminder, ABC can also be taken [online](#) at your own convenience.

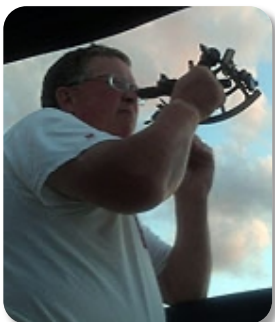
- Charlie

seo@abc-flx.org

From the Assistant Education Officer

By Jim Morris

Hi from the New Guy



Hello, everyone! My name is Jim Morris, your new ASEO.

My wife, Sue, and I are sailors and power

boaters and we look forward to another wonderful season on Seneca Lake.

We have learned so much about boating from the Power Squadron and we look forward to sharing our love of safe boating with new and present members.

We are less than a month away from Spring and less than eight

weeks away from launch (assuming our snow melt doesn't raise the water level too much).

See you soon!

- Jim

aseo@abc-flx.org

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Water Lines

By Glenda Gephart, Public Relations Officer

Getting the Word Out



Optimism is running high that 2021 is going to be a year of return. A return to *more* normal, but probably with some

changes.

As our new normalcy sets in, the challenge of getting out the word about our public activities, large and small, is going to be even greater than it was before the pandemic. Inviting our communities to our events also is going to be more important than ever.

It's no secret that some traditional paths for publicity – daily newspapers – have been narrowed, if not completely blocked. But many others, both traditional and digital, are eager to publish community items and are well-used by the public.

The first step to successful publicity is obvious: Someone has to write the news release or design the flyer. Don't forget the five W's: Who, What, When, Where and Why. Have a second person, or more, review the work before it's distributed.

Some tips:

- Distribute releases and flyers via email at least two weeks ahead, if the subject is an event.
- The news release can be in the body of the email or an attachment. If an attachment, use a common format such as Microsoft Word. Do not issue a news release as a PDF or jpeg. They're not easy for an editor or reporter to work with, and we want the process to be as easy as possible.
- The primary submission should always be a news release. A flyer can be an add-on, especially for use online.
- Include a photograph as an email attachment if appropriate. If there are people in the photograph, identify them.
- Always put contact information somewhere in the news release and flyer and make sure all online links are active before sending them out to the public.

Look around your community for places to submit news releases and flyers. Free newspapers, known by some as "shoppers." Community newsheets. Weekly newspapers. Daily newspapers. Monthly community or regional magazines. Chamber of Commerce calendars. Television and

radio stations. Community news websites and Facebook pages.

Some may charge a fee. Most do not. They're grateful to have the news item.

Facebook has become a powerful tool for spreading information. Look at how our county Public Health departments have used it during the pandemic.

Many folks have started community Facebook pages. The name might be "yard sale," but most also post event flyers. "Memories of" Facebook pages also are good sites.

Flyers by non-profit organizations can be posted in most post offices. Many convenient stores also have places for flyers.

Lastly, releases and flyers should be shared by email with the organization's members. Encourage them to then forward to their own email lists and post to their own Facebook pages.

Anyone interested in seeing a sample news release or in receiving a media contact list is invited to contact me at:

abcflxinfo@gmail.com or my email below.

- Glenda
pro@abc-flx.org

Upcoming Classes & Seminars

Unless otherwise indicated, you can register for any of these classes or get more information by contacting Education Officer Charlie Fausold at:

seo@abc-flx.org

or call 607-207-7771

Offshore Navigation

(Formerly Junior Navigation)

*Offered by the Rochester Chapter
Thursdays, March 18th – June 17th*

What happens when your GPS fails? Be prepared, have fun, and satisfy your curiosity about boating in the days before electronics in the Junior Navigation course.

Learn to use a marine sextant to take sights on celestial objects such as the sun. Even if you are not traveling long distances offshore, remember that GPS is not infallible, nor always available. Be confident when no aids to navigation or land objects are in sight.

In Offshore Navigation, you will continue to use GPS as the primary position sensor as you learned in Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation, but with celestial navigation as your backup technique. Because terrestrial landmarks are no longer visible to the offshore navigator, you will learn to use a marine sextant and the sun as your reference point, derive a line of position and develop a running fix. You will also learn to calculate your latitude from a noon sight on the sun.

What's included?

- Determining precise time

- Using the Nautical Almanac
- Determining latitude from a noon sight
- Using special charts and plotting sheets for offshore navigation
- Setting offshore navigational routines for recreational craft

This interesting and challenging course emphasizes the practical aspects of daytime celestial navigation. You will also learn to prepare a sight folder that documents your positioning skills using sights taken on the sun. The course will take approximately 14 weeks and you will have two additional weeks to complete an open book exam. Detailed instructions about joining the class through Google Meet will be supplied to interested students.

When: Thursdays from 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Google Meet

Cost: TBD for members

Instructor: Don Reaves

Prerequisites: Advanced Piloting

To Register: Contact David Rhodes at dbr4389@gmail.com

For more information, please visit: <https://www.americasboatingclubrochesterny.org/juniornav>

Sail Trim & Rig Tuning Seminar

March 23rd, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Are you getting the most out of your sailboat? Learn how to set up your boat's rigging and how to use and adjust your sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. You'll sail

like a pro using the tips from this seminar, offered over the *FreeConferenceCall* platform using your computer. The seminar includes a copy of the Student Notes.

What's Included?

- Sail terminology
- Rigging terminology
- Mainsails
- Headsails
- Trimming tools
- Wind flow on sails
- Sail twist and tensioning

Your Instructor for the seminar will be ABC-FLX member Mike Crouse. Mike began sailing on the eastern end of Lake Ontario in the early 80's: first 12 years on the small boats that make the sailor, and then 12 years on boats 30 to 36 feet. He enjoyed racing on a number of boats including his 36-foot Islander, *Seek Ye 1st*. Mike crewed for some very good sailors with tons of experience, including those that have won major races like the Lake Ontario 300. For the last 12 years Mike has enjoyed bunking *Seek Ye 1st* on Dock 3 in the Village Marina, where he and Dee enjoy the harbor family more than any other place they have called home. (He admits to waking up every now and then during the middle of the night screaming, "Tacking"!)

Mike is in the process of making *Seek Ye 1st* ready to race on the Great Lakes as soon as Dee can talk him into retiring and plans to enter the Ontario 300 in the summer of 2022 after getting some long-distance experience with Tom Alley aboard *Tomfoolery* in

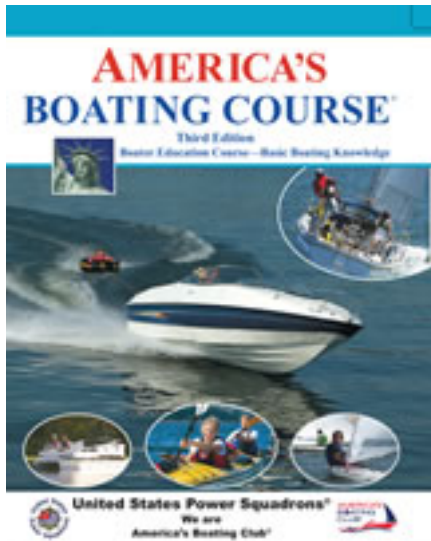
the Marion-Bermuda Race this summer.

Fee: \$15

To register: email to SEO@ABC-FLX.org

America's Boating Course

March 2021



This 8-hour course provides an introduction to boating including:

- Types of power boats
- Boating Law
- Boat Safety Equipment:
- Safe Boating
- Navigation
- Boating Problems
- Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat
- Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating
- New York State-specific rules and regulations

Completion of the ABC course and passing the exam will earn the New York State Boating Safety Certificate, which is or

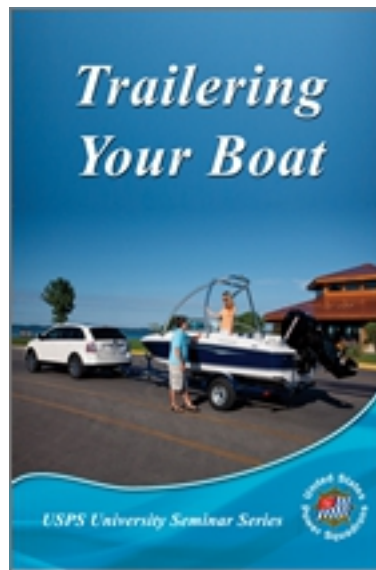
soon will be required of all operators of power-driven vessels in NY.

Our first ABC class this year is scheduled for March 8th and 15th in Waterloo, NY and aimed at employees of several of the marinas at the north end of the lake. ABC-FLX member Dennis Daniels, SN, will be the lead instructor. (This class is currently filled.)

More ABC classes will be announced as we get into the season. As a reminder, ABC can also be taken [online](http://www.americasboatingclub.org) at your own convenience at www.americasboatingclub.org.

Trailering Your Boat Seminar

Tuesday, April 12th, 7:00 to 9:00pm



Overcome boating boredom by trailering your boat to areas with better fishing, weather, or camping facilities. You'll gain the skills and tips needed to safely move your trailerable boat as well as maintenance hints and boat ramp etiquette. Get tips on protecting your gear before, during, and after

transit, and learn the "one-block rule".

This two-hour seminar, offered over the *FreeConferenceCall* platform using your computer, includes how to select tow vehicles, hitches, and trailers, how to safely and securely trailer your boat, launch it, and retrieve it, and how to operate and maintain your trailering equipment. The seminar includes video segments provided by the US Coast Guard and excellent slide notes. An optional excellent book titled *Trailering Your Boat*, written by Bruce Smith and published as a USPS Guide by McGraw-Hill is also available. This book serves as an excellent reference on all of these topics.

What's included?

- The challenge of trailering
- Choosing your vehicle
- Types of hitches
- Choosing and equipping your trailer
- The art of towing
- Launching your boat
- Trailering sailboats
- Maintenance

Fee: \$30 includes the Student Guide. *Trailering Your Boat* by Bruce Smith is an additional \$15

Instructor: John Flick

To register: email to SEO@ABC-FLX.org

Boat Handling Course

May 6 – June 12

Our new *Boat Handling* course is intended for newer recreational boaters who have completed a

basic boating class (like *America's Boating Course*) and want to gain more knowledge, skill, and confidence to boat safely and have more fun in a variety of situations.

Boat Handling covers these topics:

- Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach
- Confidence in Docking and Undocking: Slow-Speed Maneuvering
- Boating with Confidence: Handling Your Boat Under Way
- Anchoring with Assurance: Don't Get Carried Away
- Emergencies on Board: Preparation for Handling Common Problems
- Knots and Line Handling: The Knots You Need to Know

This course will be held Thursday evenings, 7 to 9pm in the Schuyler County Human Services Complex, 323 Owego St. in Montour Falls. There will be 6 classroom sessions beginning May 6th, and a final review session on the water on Saturday, June 12th at 9:00am, followed immediately by the exam. Classroom sessions will also be offered over *FreeConferenceCall* for those unable to attend in person.

Completion of all six classes and achieving a passing grade on the exam will earn the "Seaman" grade, the first of five America's Boating Club advanced grades.

The cost of the full course for ABC-FLX members is \$70 (\$22 for each additional family member sharing the course materials) and includes a downloadable student book as well as the downloadable US Coast Guard *Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook*. There is an additional charge if you want printed versions of the student manual (\$10) and USCG handbook (\$12.50).

Each topic is also available as a free-standing seminar. If taken individually, each seminar is \$13 (electronic downloaded materials) or \$16 (printed materials). You will get credit for taking the seminars, but again, need to take all six and pass the exam to receive credit for the Boat Handling course.

Course fee: \$70.

To register: email to SEO@ABC-FLX.org

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 Charlie Fausold, Finger Lakes Chapter:

seo@abc-flx.org

or call 607-207-7771

Assistant Education Director Jim Morris:

aseo@abc-flx.org

Or you can go to the national web site (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 Charlie Fausold, the Chapter Education Director, with your request.

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

www.abc-flx.org

Long-Term Class Schedule

Seneca Education Department

Courses	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Public	ABCourse	ABCourse	ABCourse	ABCourse	ABCourse	ABCourse
Basic	Boat Handling	Sail	Boat Handling	Sail	Boat Handling	Sail
Advanced Level	Marine Navigation	Advanced Marine Navigation	Marine Navigation	Advanced Marine Navigation	Marine Navigation	Advanced Marine Navigation
Senior Level		Offshore Navigation				Offshore Navigation
Electives	Electronic Navigation	Instructor Training	Weather	TBD	TBD	Marine Electrical
		Engine Maintenance				Marine Communications
Seminars	Paddle Smart	Trailerling & Docking	Partner in Command	Instructor Recertification	Man Overboard!	Power Boating
	Advanced Powerboat Handling					Trailerling Your Boat
	Trailerling Your Boat					
	Sail Trim & Rig Tuning					
Self Study	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class

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.

March

Terry Stewart
Bill Clack
Helene Fausold
Rhea Gerdes
Steve Pietro
Wendy Reynolds
Mark Erway
Jim McGinnis

April

Andrew Seubert
Carolyn Clack
Andrea Johnson
Walter Vancise
Dave Dawson-Elli
Samuel Maggio
Henry Cabezas
Anthony Validzic

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

March

Timothy Reilley

April

Gene Milliman
Barbara Saroka

Vessel Safety Checks in 2021

By Ray Margeson

The Vessel Safety Committee still has no word on what will be going on this year. But rest assured, when we can begin Vessel Safety Exams again we will be on the ball with Don Kloeber, Charlie Fausold, Mark Erway and ME,

Stay Healthy, wear a mask, get the vaccine when you can, and avoid people.

Pending Legislation Concerning the New York Canals

From BOAT/US



A bill that could have a major negative consequence for the New York State Canal System is moving quickly in Albany. Boaters need to speak up now to prevent this proposal from moving forward and ask the Governor Andrew Cuomo to engage in an open, transparent process to ensure the future of this historic waterway, not only for the recreational boaters in New

York and beyond, but for the communities along its length.

Send a message to your state legislators asking they remove the Governor's 30-day budget amendment TED Bill Part VV, also known as the "*New York State Canal System Revitalization act*," which was introduced in the budget process at the last minute with no opportunity for public input.

For additional information and to contact your state representatives, use the BoatUS web site:

<https://tinyurl.com/4t7pd5ht>

Got News?

By Tom Alley, Editor

Do you have any squadron-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 Seneca Squadron or one of our neighboring squadrons.

Contact Tom Alley:

editor@abc-flx.org

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The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN

SV Tomfoolery

Slow Time? Not!



I think most people in this area would, if asked, say that this time of year is the “slow time” for boaters. Af-

ter all, most of the water in this area isn’t even liquid during these months of scarce sunshine and shortened daylight. Actually, at least for me, it’s quite the opposite.

There’s lots going on. Your Bridge and Executive Committee members are busily preparing for the Spring Conference that will be hosted in Corning in early April. Then there’s the 12-day Annual Meeting that’s underway as I write this. Even though this year’s meeting is “virtual”, I still find myself attending sessions for several hours every day. We’re only halfway through as I write this, but there is already plenty to write about with more on the way.

As your District Education Officer (DEO), we are spending a lot of time discussing ways to make classes and seminars more accessible to everyone in the District. There is a lot of potential in some of the ideas we’ve

been discussing during the monthly teleconferences with all the District’s Squadron Education Officers (SEOs), and I’m sure Charlie will be passing along updates in this area as they become available.

Power Squadron aside, there are the usual winter boat projects, and for me, there’s the extra task of renewing my captain’s license this year. (Way more involved than filling out a form and sending in a check!)

Bermuda Update

Despite the snow and ice we’ve witnessed outside lately, it is perfectly valid to say that things are starting to “heat up” with respect to getting *Tomfoolery* to the starting line of the Marion-Bermuda Race. By the time you read this, we will be about 80 days away from the final leg of the delivery to Marion, MA.

While boat work is at a lull, there is much going on that can be accomplished indoors. This includes crew members renewing their First Aid and CPR certifications, attending various training seminars geared to the race, and doing the paperwork that accompanies nearly every aspect of modern life.

Our shore-side support crew is getting staffed with volunteers that will help position vehicles

and supplies for us at key points prior to our departure and upon our return. One key member is a designated “crew contact” through whom all official race committee communication will flow in the event of an emergency.

Provisioning and equipping continue, which is frightening because the available space in our fair sloop is becoming less and less while the list of things we need doesn’t seem to be getting any smaller. Compounding the problem is that “offshore” items all seem to be larger than their “regular” counterparts. Our first aid kit is a good example. Until now, I was fairly well equipped for typical incidents with a kit about the size of a small shoe box. Our offshore kit looks more like a weekend duffle bag – with a correspondingly inflated price!

Nonetheless, this is an adventure that, so far, has been well worth the effort.

Until next time!

- Your Editor, Tom

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As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:

editor@abc-flx.org

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Calendar of Events

March 2021

- 01 Seneca *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 08 America's Boating Course, *Waterloo, NY*.
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 18 Offshore Navigation class begins, *Online*. (Rochester Chapter)
- 23 Sail Trim & Rig Tuning Seminar, *Online*.

April 2021

- 09-11 District 6 Spring Council & Conference (D/6)
- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 16 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 23 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

May 2021

- 01 Seneca *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 06 Boat Handling Course begins, *Montour Falls, NY*.
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 12 Trailing Your Boat Seminar, *Online*.
- 15-21 Safe Boating Week (National)

June 2021

- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- 18 Start of Marion-Bermuda Race, *Marion, MA*.
- 18-19 Waterfront Celebration & Cardboard Boat Race, *Watkins Glen, NY*.

July 2021

- 01 Seneca *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 23 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

August 2021

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

September 2021

- 01 Seneca *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- TBA Governing Board Meeting (National)

October 2021

- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* articles

November 2021

- 01 Seneca *Drum* November issue publication date
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 18 *The Deep 6* fall issue publication date. (Delayed to cover Conference activities.) (D/6)
- TBA District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)

December 2021

- 17 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

January 2022

- 01 Seneca *Drum* January issue publication date
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 16 Seneca Change of Watch, *Online virtual event*.
- 21 Deadline for D/6 *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

February 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 13-20 USPS Annual Meeting, *Ponte Vedra, FL* (National)
- 21 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.