

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters®



THE DRUM

A Publication of the Finger Lakes Chapter

In this issue...

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| From The Commander | 1 |
| ABC-FLX News..... | 2 |
| Happy Birthday! | 2 |
| Change of Watch..... | 2 |
| From the Administrative Officer..... | 3 |
| From the Education Director | 4 |
| Secretary's Sidenotes | 6 |
| Upcoming Classes & Seminars | 7 |
| Where Do I Start? | 7 |
| Advanced Marine Navigation – February 2023 | 7 |
| Boat Handling – May 2023 | 7 |
| Seminars..... | 7 |
| How to Register | 7 |
| Looking for Something?..... | 7 |
| Long-Term Class Schedule..... | 8 |
| ABC-FLX Annual Meeting & Change of Watch | 10 |
| The Last Word | 12 |
| Calendar of Events..... | 13 |

Report any errors or omissions to:
editor@abc-flx.org

From The Commander

By Phil Cherry, S

SV Harmony

Reflections On 2022

It comes to this time on the calendar when I start to reflect on the past year and wonder what I could have done differently. Certainly, this year I could have spent more time on our boat. I managed to get it out on Seneca lake only seven times in 2022. That's pathetic, not to mention downright wasteful, and extremely expensive on a per use basis! And yet, you know the feeling, when you get under sail (or power!) out there on the lake and the weather is warm, the sea is calm and the scenery outstanding, that it doesn't matter about the money or the number of times I got out. It's that feeling of power and independence that comes from navigating your own vessel, the sense of adventure each time you head out of the harbor that keeps you coming back for more, and blind to the downsides of owning a boat.

This is especially true here in Finger lakes, and Seneca Lake in particular. Every time I come down



the Corning hill on Route 414 and get that glimpse of the lake, shimmering blue on sunny days, sometimes with boats on it, sometimes not, but always nestled between the Finger Lakes national forest to the East and the rolling hills of Schuyler and Yates Counties to the west, that I'm reminded of just how fortunate we are to have this resource in our back yard. That's why it's so critical that we take care of what we have so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come. Our Public Relation Officer, Glenda Gephart, did an excellent piece in the November issue of the *Drum* outlining the new Seneca Keuka Nine Element Plan just released this year. Please take a look at the plan (available [here](#)) and think about what you can do to help preserve the lake. We seem to have fewer Harmful

Algal Blooms this year, but the factors that go into their formation are many and varied, so it's not time yet to celebrate any great achievements. Implementation of the plan will take years, if not decades, to succeed, and we all have a part to play, whether or not you have a boat on the lake.

I also like to think about the contributions our members have made to the success of our boating club. Boating safety isn't something that just happens, it takes education, practice, patience, and a cadre of dedicated boating enthusiasts willing to share of their time and talents. When I look back at all the courses that were taught this year, from the basic ABC classes to

Piloting and Engine Maintenance to name a few, our SEO Jim McGuinness and the many instructors that helped deliver these quality courses did a great job, and we are indebted to them for their dedication and hard work.

As 2022 comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to remind you of our Annual Meeting which is taking place this year in person at Fulkerson's Winery on Sunday, January 8th. I hope to see you there!

- Phil, SV Harmony
co@abc-flx.org

ABC-FLX News

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to our members:

January

Maura Toole
Mike Crouse
Lewis Chesebrough
Katie Alley

February

Dave Hursh
Billy Alley
Katie Chesebrough
Dee Stafford
Meg Cabazas

Change of Watch

The Change of Watch is the equivalent of our organization's annual meeting. At this meeting members can elect the people who will lead the club in the coming year. It also provides a great excuse to get together during the non-boating part of the year.

Consider attending on January 8th. Details are on pages 10 and 11.

The Drum

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From the Administrative Officer

By Maggie Martin



It has been such a pleasure pursuing our interest in all things

nautical during the past year!

I was inspired to share images of boats from our travels to Cyprus

in 2022. Happy New Boating Year 2023!
Cheerio!

- Maggie
ao@abc-flx.org

SV Wined 'n' Down



Figure 1: John and our guys heading out for a '3-hour cruise'.



Figure 2: Fishing boat heading out.



Figure 4: Sunset in yacht basin Limassol.



Figure 3: Fishing Boat dock in Zygi.



Figure 5: Traditional Mediterranean vessels, Larnaca.

From the Education Director

By Jim McGinnis, SN-IN

Holiday Musings



Ahoy
Mateys!
The end
of 2022
is fast
upon us.
The year
end is
great for

spending time with family and friends. Take a break from the list of responsibilities and work on the Christmas list. At these in between times, we can really enjoy the holiday days. It's not time yet for our New Year's Resolutions or promises to take hold. It's time to dive into the cookies, decorations, gifts, parties and more. That's the source of rejuvenation that comes from the holidays. For me, I like to remember the reason for the season and with that in mind, I am grateful for everything good that comes to me.

Weather has been pretty nice in Florida. We did attend the Annual Mullet Smoke-off at Terra Ceia Island. Lot's food vendors and artwork of the local area. The highlight of the day was the Mullet Toss which had people lined up around the park to compete. We passed on that one.

At our house we have several frequent visitors and among them is this eye-catching Spoonbill.

We took a 4-day trip to scout out Panama City, Destin and Pensacola, FL for a potential cruise site someday. Weather started out fine and then tornado warnings

were issued chasing us back to Bradenton.

By the way, I took the *Propane Systems on Your Boat* seminar last week and I want to highly recommend it to you. Our boats can be hazardous, as you well know. Fumes from our engines, propane systems, and even other boats nearby can be a source of life-threatening gases. The course is a good overview of the risks related to carbon monoxide, (often from incomplete combustion gases wafting back into the boat) and fuel fumes from leaking fuel bottle valves, connectors, hoses, fittings, or control elements like in-line solenoids, valves, and gauges. It's 90 minutes that could save someone's life or damage to property. It includes an exercise that enables you to troubleshoot a leaking propane system and shows how to check your system with the gauges and tools you already have. This spring, using the techniques from the seminar, add a check of the propane system to your commissioning activities. Also, store any spare camping size propane bottles in your boat's propane locker, (definitely not in the cabin) and install or update the carbon

SV Brewster



Figure 6: Mullet Toss at the Mullet Smoke-off.



Figure 7: Roseate Spoonbill in the backyard.

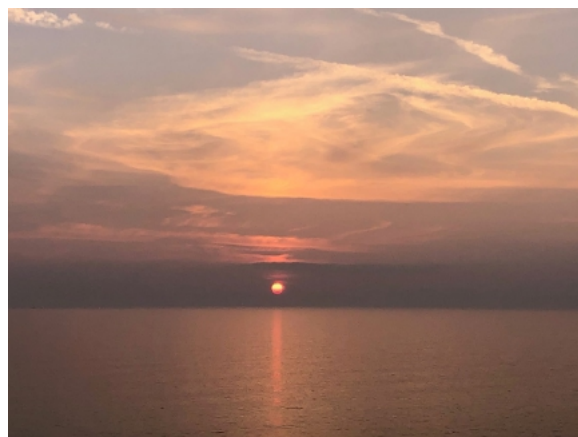


Figure 8: Hazy sunset at Panama City, FL.

monoxide detector. CO combines with hemoglobin in your blood system (preferentially to oxygen) and can leave a person in a dazed to lethal condition. Just log on the

[America's Boating Club | All Education Seminars \(americasboatingclub.org\)](https://americasboatingclub.org) seminars website and set up an account for access to a wide variety of seminars.

- Jim
seo@abc-flx.org

FAMOUS TOPICS IN ART HISTORY:



HERCULES ATTEMPTING TO GIVE HIS CAT A PILL

Figure 9: Just for fun. As seen on <https://hugelol.com/lol/746688>.

Secretary's Sidenotes

By Andrew Price

Secretary

Beginning DIY



By now, our boats are all snugged onto their trailers and cradles and covered from the harsh effects of Winter. It

is time to start planning our repairs, maintenance, and upgrades. Boat maintenance, fabrication,

and upgrades are some of my favorite parts of boating! I remember the trepidation I had when I first contemplated drilling a hole in the deck of my boat! Oh my. I pictured a screw sticking out the bottom of my hull! I fretted quite a while, checked about twenty times, but I finally got that first hole drilled (I am sure I chipped the gel-cote and cursed!). I found I liked it, and my confidence built. Now, I always have a list of maintenance, fabrication, and upgrades for every off-season.

If you are like I once was, drilling holes, fabricating fiberglass, G-

10, PVC, HTPE, and metal parts, and performing maintenance might scare you. Luckily, there is a wealth of easily accessible information available on the forums and YouTube, not to mention an ever-growing library of excellent seminars through USPS. Likewise, there is a wealth of information literally walking around the marina or a phone call away. Take the plunge and get to it. You will be glad you did!

See you on the water (in about five months!).

- Andrew
secretary@abc-flx.org



Figure 10: As seen on the Internet. Author unknown.

Upcoming Classes & Seminars

Where Do I Start?

To work through the progression of Boating Classes and the progression of Boating skills development we have organized the classes and skills on the Long-Term Schedule. If you have any questions or want a class offered sooner let us know.

See: <https://usps.org/ss-where-do-i-start>

Advanced Marine

Navigation – Feb 2023

Advanced Marine Navigation (AMN, formerly Advanced Piloting) will begin Thursday, February 9th 7PM in Room 115 of the Schuyler County Human Services Complex in Montour Falls. AMN builds on *Marine Navigation*, which is a prerequisite. It focuses on navigation in coastal waters where greater distances require increased accuracy in course plotting and tides and currents must be taken into account. It also introduces more advanced electronic navigation tools such as radar. The registration fee for AMN is \$80 for members and \$38 for additional family members sharing the student materials. Club members who have taken *Marine Navigation* (Piloting) are strongly encouraged to join us for *Advanced Marine Navigation*. Registration for this class is open now. Contact Jim McGinnis to register.

Boat Handling – May 2023

Boat Handling starts 7PM Thursday, May 11th, 2023. Formerly known as the Seamanship class, this course has just received a major overhaul as part of the overall restructuring of the Advanced Grades courses. The *Boat Handling* course consists of six, two-hour seminar sessions. These sessions include an overview of USCG rules (COLREGS), Power-Point slides, videos, and animations. Best of all, several of the sessions will be held on the water, aboard local boats where you can practice what we cover in the classroom. *Boat Handling* is also the first of the Advanced Grades courses to have its textbook in a digital (eBook) format. Completion of all six seminars along with passing a comprehensive written examination will result in the award of the USPS grade of “Seaman” (S) and is the pre-requisite course for *Marine Navigation*. Don't have time for the whole class? Then take advantage of the new format and structure and just sign up for the sessions you are interested in!

When: May-June 2023

Duration: 9 weeks

Where: in Room 115 of the Schuyler County Human Services Complex in Montour Falls and on the water at the Village Marina Watkins Glen.

Prerequisites: None.

Cost: \$70 (USPS members), \$22 (add'l family members), \$110 (nonmembers)

Contact Jim McGinnis to register.

Seminars

Again, if you haven't looked at the USPS seminar offerings, you might be missing out. USPS has a wide variety of Online Seminars available on the USPS Website [America's Boating Club | All Education Seminars \(americasboatingclub.org\)](https://www.usps.gov/abc/education/seminars) This winter you can complete a few to add to your skill set and keeping boating on your mind.

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

or call 607-346-5408 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 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

Long-Term Class Schedule

Seneca Education Department

| BOC Level | Title | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|-------------------|----------|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Offshore Navigator | C | Offshore Navigation | 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 | | | | | | X |
| | | Instructor Recertification | | X | | X | | X |
| | | Operations Training | | | | | | X |
| | | | | | | | | |

Table Key

X = Planned

C = Completed

ABC-FLX Annual Meeting & Change of Watch

By Phil Cherry

Happy Holidays!!

On behalf of the Bridge and Executive Committee, I invite you all to attend the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch (COW) for the ABC-FLX on Sunday, January 8th, 2023. This will be our first in-person COW since 2020 and I'm hopeful all our members will be able to attend.

The event will be held at Fulkerson's Winery, 5576 NY-14, Dundee, NY beginning at 5 PM.

Our event this year will begin with a potluck dinner and each family is asked to bring a dish to share. Each attendee is also asked to contribute \$10 to offset

the cost of Sayre's most excellent wines! Water, beers, and soft drinks will also be available.

USPS District 6 Commander Rick Hibbs has graciously agreed to preside over the Change of Watch. As a special event, we are also pleased to announce that Bill Holgate will be our speaker for the evening, in addition to the pomp and pageantry of our COW! We are most grateful to Bill for agreeing to share his boating experiences with us.

A draft agenda for the meeting is attached. Attached to the agenda is the proposed slate of

candidates for election to the Bridge and executive and other committees. As a member of the organization, you may vote on the slate of candidates during the meeting.

Please join us in welcoming your new officers to their positions on the Bridge by attending on January 8th!

Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season!!

- *Phil*

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America's Boating Club – Finger Lakes Chapter

(Seneca Sail & Power Squadron)

63rd Change of Watch

5 PM Sunday, January 8th, 2023

Fulkerson's Winery

5576 NY-14, Dundee, NY



Agenda

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1700 | Social Time and Potluck Dinner | 1820 | Election of Bridge Officers |
| 1800 | Meeting Called to Order | | Election of Officers, Nominating, and Audit Committee Members |
| | Invocation | | Pledge of Commander |
| | Pledge of Allegiance | | Pledge of Bridge Officers and Executive Committee |
| | Introductions: D/6 Commander, Executive Committee, Past Commanders | 1830 | District 6 Commander's Message |
| | Squadron Reports 2022: Membership, Education, Audit Committee Report | 1840 | Commander's Message |
| | | 1845 | Business Adjournment |
| | | 1845 | Speaker's Presentation |

Nominations for 2023 ABC-Finger Lakes Chapter

Bridge and Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee Chair proposes the following nominees for 2023:

Bridge Positions:

Commander Philip Cherry, AP
 Executive Officer..... Ray Margeson, AP-IN
 Administrative Officer..... Maggie Martin
 Educational Officer Andrew Price, P
 Assistant Educational Officer Katie Alley, P
 Secretary Kris West
 Treasurer Marcia Taylor, AP

2023 Audit Committee

Lt/C Denis Kingsley, S

Executive Committee:

P/C P/C James McGinnis SN-CN
 Member..... P/C Mark Erway, AP
 Member..... Lt Thomas Taylor, AP
 Member..... R/C Thomas Alley, SN-CN

2023 Nominating Committee

James McGinnis, SN-CN
 Phil Cherry, AP
 Jim Morris, AP

The Last Word

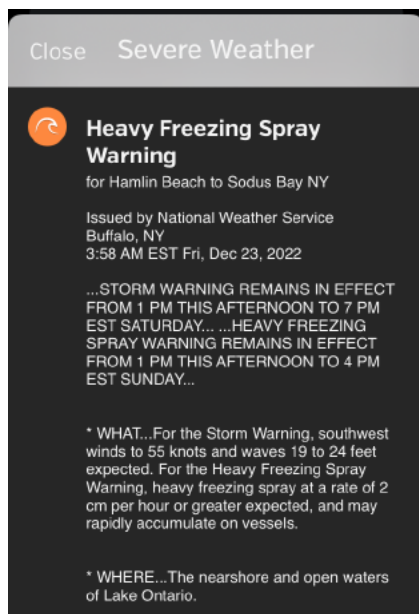
By Tom Alley, SN



I'm writing this column on Christmas Eve, mostly because I need some "warm"

thoughts after the dramatic turn in the weather over the past couple of days. What happened to all the "global warming"?

One of our members (thanks, Dave!) sent me a screen shot of the marine forecast for Lake Ontario:



Needless to say, walking out to the mailbox on solid, unmoving ground that day was enough of a challenge for me. I don't need that level of excitement, thank

you! I think my biggest nautical challenge this coming week will be climbing the ladder to check on my boat in her cradle.

Besides griping about the weather that makes us appreciate all those warm, sunny, summer days on the lake, I can report on some excitement of another kind. Well, it's exciting to me, at least.

In my current roles on the national Boat Systems and IT committees, we have been working on a few projects that should be ready for public release very soon. I think you will like what we've prepared for you.

First, the *Marine Electrical Systems* course has gotten a bit of a facelift. Some of the more dated material in the course has been updated and a number of errors have been removed from the text. In addition, the student manual has been reformatted to a new, and hopefully easier to read, format. It will be available both electronically and in print by the end of January. (Yes, this month!)

Second, a team of volunteers (many from this squadron) and I have been testing software that will enable the USPS to offer exams in an online setting. This all-electronic format will allow for immediate feedback. Students will take the exam on a

PC or tablet and when they click on the "Submit" button at the end of the exam, they will receive their grade along with an exam critique. No more waiting for exams to be mailed, graded, and then for critiques to be mailed back. Volunteers who have tested the software have given it high marks. I am hoping that it will be released for use in all courses sometime during the first quarter of 2023. In other words, "Real soon!"

While I can't guarantee when the "eExams" will be released, I can promise you that all of the courses covered by the Boat Systems Committee will have their exams ready to make use of this on Day 1. (These are: *Engine Maintenance*, *Marine Electrical Systems*, *Marine Communication Systems*, *Electronic Navigation*, and *Radar for Boaters*.)

And with that in mind, I hope your holidays were merry and that 2023 finds you with health, happiness, and a dry bilge!

- Your Editor, Tom

o o o o o

As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:

editor@abc-flx.org

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Calendar of Events

January 2023

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* January issue publication date
- 08 Finger Lakes Change of Watch, *Fulkerson's Winery, Dundee, NY* (1700)
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 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 2023

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

April 2023

- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 14 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 14-16 District 6 Spring Council & Conference, *Clarion Inn, Elmira, NY* (D/6)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

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

July 2023

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 21 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

August 2023

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 25 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- 27-9/4 Governing Board Meeting, *Kansas City, MO* (National)

September 2023

- 8/27-04 Governing Board Meeting, *Kansas City, MO* (National)
- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)

October 2023

- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 20 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 23 Deadline for *Drum* articles

November 2023

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* November issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* fall issue publication date. (D/6)
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- TBA District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)

December 2023

- 22 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.