

# 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 Executive Officer ..... 3
- From the Education Director ..... 5
- Secretary's Sidenotes..... 8
- ABC-FLX News..... 9
  - Happy Birthday! ..... 9
  - Congratulations, Offshore Navigators!9
  - Save The Date: Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>..... 9
  - The Drum* Recognized..... 9
  - NY Canal Schedule Posted ..... 9
- Upcoming Classes & Seminars ..... 10
  - Cruising Under Power and Sail ..... 10
  - Stargazing 101 Seminar ..... 10
  - Celestial Navigation ..... 10
  - Radar for Boaters ..... 10
  - Weather ..... 10
  - Emergencies On Board Seminar ..... 11
- Long-Term Class Schedule ..... 12
- The Last Word..... 14
- Calendar of Events..... 15

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

## From The Commander

By Phil Cherry, S SV Harmony

### Getting to the Bottom of It

I remember when I was eighteen, working for McMichael's yacht yard in Greenwich Connecticut. I was young and needed a job, and so I started out at the boatyard scraping and repainting boat bottoms. We had several Mathews 42's in the yard at the time and I recall it taking hours and hours to hand scrape the bottoms of these massive wooden boats. It was 1974, and while we were given small masks (like the covid masks we wear today), they would often shift on our face or fall off altogether, if I didn't proactively take it off just because it was a pain to use. When I did wear the mask, I remember coming out from under the boat, removing my mask and seeing my face literally covered in red dust, except where the mask was. I'd then smoke a cigarette (Marlboro Reds..., what can I say..., I was 18 and it was the 1970's!) and it would taste sweet and sickly which told me the mask wasn't



totally effective and that I was inhaling some pretty rude stuff. I dread the thought of what that did to my lungs, but thankfully I'm still here.

Fast forward to today, and here it is April, and we are all thinking about getting our boats in the water and what we need to do to prepare them for a summer of fun on the lake. Understandably, my mind always goes to bottom paints, and ever since I've had *Harmony*, (and at its previous owner's suggestion), I've used Interlux VC 17m as my antifouling paint of choice.

With my history of likely inhaling toxic bottom paints, and my intense interest in the environment generally, as well as my passion for keeping our lake as clean as possible, I've been

doing some digging into VC 17m's environmental impacts. It is generally regarded as an excellent antifouling paint, but what, if anything, is it doing to our waters? Bottom paints can be bad for our environment. Back in the 1970's, tributyl tin or TBT was used extensively in bottom paints until it was outlawed internationally in the very early 2000's because of its devastating effects on aquatic organisms and water quality. Technology has come a long way since the 1970's, but still, could VC 17m have any negative impacts on our lake? I wondered.

I then started to google VC 17m and came up with some interesting results. Apparently, and some of you might already know this, Interlux made a slightly different product called VC 17m Extra. As it turns out VC 17m Extra was removed from the market in 2023 because its principal ingredient, Biolux (Irgarol) was banned for use in the USA. I also found out that while the "regular" VC 17m is advertised to be safe for marine environments, it is not allowed for use in California and Indiana. I could find no information on why that is, which is puzzling to say the least. I suspect those states take issue with copper-based bottom paints, but that's the subject of another article.

At this point, I gave up searching for answers about the impacts of VC 17m on water quality and turned my attention to finding more environmentally friendly bottom paints. I used my favorite AI tool, ChatGPT, and found that indeed several antifouling

manufacturers are working on more ecologically favorable paints. They include Interlux, Pettit Marine paints, and Sea Hawk to name a few. Upon investigation it appears as if many of these new formulations are silicone based, which brings its own set of problems.

[In a June 23, 2023, article in Practical Boat Owner magazine](#) I read about how silicone based antifouling paints (and many other substances) may contain PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) or "forever chemicals" which are a growing menace worldwide. These ubiquitous chemicals are thought to be dangerous at extremely low levels and, in fact, just last week, our federal government issued a new rule requiring municipal water systems across the country to treat their water to a new, very restrictive, 4 parts per trillion mandatory drinking water standard.

According to the article cited above, the silicone-based paints did a better antifouling job than the copper-based products. However, the article also stated, and I quote,

*"AkzoNobel confirmed that it doesn't add PFAS to their silicone fouling control products, although there may be tiny trace amounts from where it sources the materials to make the paint."*

This statement doesn't leave me with a whole lot of confidence that the silicon-based products are any better than the old copper-based VC 17m, at least environmentally. If they contain even minute particles of PFAS,

## The Drum

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

### General Information

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

### Commander

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

### Executive Officer

Kris West, S  
[xo@abc-flx.org](mailto:xo@abc-flx.org)

### Administrative Officer

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

### Education Officer

Katie Alley, JN  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

### Assistant Education Officer

Scott Williams, JN  
[aseo@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo@abc-flx.org)

### Secretary

Jeff Mack, JN  
[sec@abc-flx.org](mailto:sec@abc-flx.org)

### Treasurer

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

### Membership

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

### Public Relations Officers

Glenda Gephart  
[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-CN  
[webmaster@abc-flx.org](mailto:webmaster@abc-flx.org)

Unless attributed otherwise, ©2024 copyright by America's Boating Club - Finger Lakes Chapter. All rights reserved.

then they are arguably more dangerous to the well-being of our lakes and our people here in upstate NY.

At this point, I went ahead and ordered my VC 17m for this year.

I would welcome any comments or suggestions from readers on what paint you use, and whether you believe it to be safe for our lakes, and our lungs!

Thanks for listening. See you on the lake!

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

o o o o o

## From the Executive Officer



By Kris West, S

### Calling All Women Mariners

Ok, ladies, this article is for you! If you want to get more experience boating but

it's a bit out of your comfort zone, we've got you. ABC-FLX is a welcoming and safe environment for *anyone* who wants to learn more about boating. Yes, boating has *traditionally* been a male-dominated activity so I thought it might be helpful to provide a few uplifting stories of women on the water through history. Each of these women overcame daunting obstacles demonstrating determination and grit to a degree I can hardly imagine making them, and their stories, inspirational.

For instance, did you know that one of the most successful pirates of all time was a Chinese woman name Zheng Yi Sao? For nearly a decade in the early 1800's, Zheng Yi Sao (aka Ching Shi) led an armada composed of some 400 ships and an estimated force of

40,000 – 80,000 sailors. She ruled the South China Sea going up against global powerhouses including the East India Company, the Portuguese Empire and the Qing dynasty. She amassed so much power that by the time she surrendered she actually had the upper hand in negotiations allowing her to gain pardons for herself and her sailors, a cash settlement, a title of nobility and retention of a flotilla of ships and sailors.

Now, imagine a commercial fisherman. You probably don't imagine a woman but look harder and you'll find her. One of the most inspirational, in the early 1800's, was Thuridur Einarsdottir born in 1777 and who lived near the Icelandic village of Eyrarbakki. At the time, Iceland was a remote colony of the Kingdom of Denmark recovering from a devastating volcanic eruption in 1783 which decimated agriculture on the island, killing 20% of the population and making fishing fundamental to survival. Thuridur started accompanying her father at the age of 11 in their open rowboat to go after fish in the icy waters offshore. Over the years, she

became a skilled deckhand and ultimately captain of her own vessel. She gained renown as an accomplished mariner with an uncanny ability to read the water; known for bringing in the largest catches while never losing a single crewmember to their hazardous occupation.

Now let's jump to modern day sailing where women have made their marks. In 1978, Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz at age 41 undertook a 401-day voyage to become first woman to sail solo around the world. Ten years later, 34-year old Kay Cottee became the first woman to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the globe in 189 days.

In 2005, Ellen MacArthur became the fastest sailor (male or female) to circumnavigate the globe, solo. Her record setting voyage, which stood for nearly 3 years, covered 27,354 nautical miles and took 71 days, 14 hours 18 minutes and 33 seconds. After overcoming government objections, 16-year-old Laura Dekker became the youngest person to sail single-handed around the globe. Her voyage

SV Zephyr

included multiple stops and took nearly a year and a half.

Think you're too old to sail? Tell that to Jeanne Socrates who, in 2019 at the age of 77, claimed the record for the oldest person to have sailed around the world singlehandedly, unassisted, and non-stop. And, to top it off, she recently celebrated her 81<sup>st</sup> birthday somewhere in the Pacific Ocean on a solo voyage from Mexico to Australia.

I don't see myself sailing single-handed around the world but I do dream of sailing on all of the Great Lakes. I have a long way to go to get there so I'm also formulating a plan that involves study and gaining experience. I'm taking classes through ABC-FLX

to get familiar with all things boating and to develop relationships with some incredibly talented mentors. One of those relationships led to an invitation to crew on Brewster for the trip back to Watkins Glen from Toronto after the Lake Ontario 300 Challenge. On my own boat, I'm setting some stretch goals for myself each season to gain experience and confidence. This year, I aim to sail my 30-foot Hunter solo around Seneca Lake and to camp out at anchor at least one night. I'd also like improve my sailing skills to the point where I can cross the finish line of a FLYC race well before the after-race party winds down.

Our community in Watkins Glen is blessed with amazing mentors active in both ABC-FLX and FLYC. I invite all women interested in boating to lean in and show up both in the classroom and onboard. Look over the ABC-FLX course offerings and sign up. If you don't see a topic of interest, please let us know what you want to learn. Become a member of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club and check the box the Women's Sailing Team. There is space for you.

Now, get outside and have fun!

- Kris

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

**STARGAZING 101**  
*FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE NIGHT SKY*

**JUNE 6TH** DIGITAL DOME  
 CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**6 PM** ABC-FLX SOCIAL  
 CATERED DINNER OF WRAPS

**7:30 PM** PLANETARIUM PRESENTATION  
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**\$10 EVENT ADMISSION**  
**\$15 PP FOR DINNER**

*Join us for an introductory presentation on how to identify the celestial bodies above us. This event is suitable for everyone - curious youth and inquisitive adults. Local celestial navigators will also point out which stars sailors have used to travel oceans for centuries!*

 FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

# From the Education Director

By Katie Alley, JN

SV Tomfoolery

## The Moon Made Me Do It



As you all know, on April 8<sup>th</sup>, a very interesting

astronomical and astrological event occurred – a solar eclipse! While solar eclipses occur every several months someplace on the earth, having a **total** solar eclipse visible in the Finger Lakes region is quite rare. For reference, the next total solar eclipses in North America will occur in 2044 and 2045, and upstate New York will not be in the path of totality for either of those.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Captain Tom Alley, ASEO Captain Scott Williams, and I had the opportunity to speak at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport. We gave a short presentation on the basics of celestial navigation for boaters. The talk was timely since everyone was interested in what was going on up in the sky! Both sessions of our presentation were well attended by our members and the public. The museum is a nifty spot with lots of historical boats. They are a humble reminder of what our boating ancestors were working with not too long ago!

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Alley family traveled up to Sampson State Park to view the eclipse in its path of

totality. The park was certainly busy, but not so packed that we couldn't find parking or a viewing spot right on Seneca Lake's shore. Many of us were worried the clouds would ruin the experience. Although it was incredibly frustrating that it was sunny both the day *before* and *after* the eclipse, the clouds did not *totally* ruin the view!

It was a pleasant day to sit down by the lake in a sweatshirt. The light wind diminished as totality encroached. It was actually fun to be around so many other viewers because people would shout when the clouds broke enough to see the sun - with a rounded chunk missing! We were able to get some neat pictures with our iPhones.

Thanks to the clouds, I never even had to use my eclipse glasses. My sunglasses were enough to protect my eyes while still allowing me to see the sun.

As totality got closer, I noticed it starting to get darker, just like it does slowly in the summer. Being on the lake's shore turned out to be the absolute ideal viewing



Figure 2: Darkness to the west.



Figure 1: Photo by me, iPhone 15 Max Pro.



Figure 5: Photo by Captain Alley, iPhone 13 Pro.



Figure 4: Sliver of sun shortly before totality.



Figure 3: Before totality, looking to the south.



Figure 7: During totality.



Figure 9: During totality.

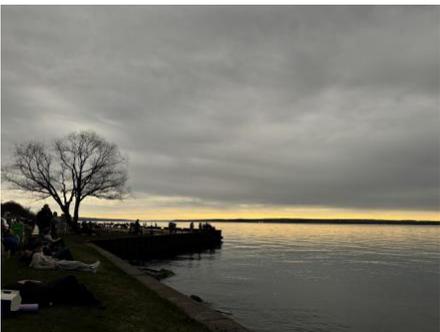


Figure 6: After totality.

spot. We could see the darkness moving towards us from the west. Even with the cloud coverage, the lighting change during totality was incredibly dramatic!

Sampson had about 90 seconds of totality. It was so cool! It got very dark like it was night, but to the north and south down the lake, we could see glowing sunset-esque colors on the horizon.

Just as we saw the darkness moving towards us, we could see it continue to pass over the hills to the east.

Sampson State Park surprised all of its viewers with a military fly-by after totality as well! It was a completely unexpected added sight!



Figure 10: One of two C-130s that provided us with a post-eclipse, low-altitude, military fly-by.



Figure 8: Darkness continues on to the west, plus a view of the parking lot!

At the beginning of this article, I referred to the eclipse as both an astronomical and astrological event. Astrology is a nonscientific practice that attempts to explain human behavior and earthly events based on the positions of celestial bodies. Some people take astrology very seriously and see it as their spirituality, but for others, their horoscope is just fun to read and consider with a grain of salt.

Have you ever heard someone say something like, “Sorry I’m so unorganized, I’m such a Gemini!” or “I’m crying because I’m a Pisces, and we are so sensitive!” Well, I might be adopting some similar energy in my next paragraph.

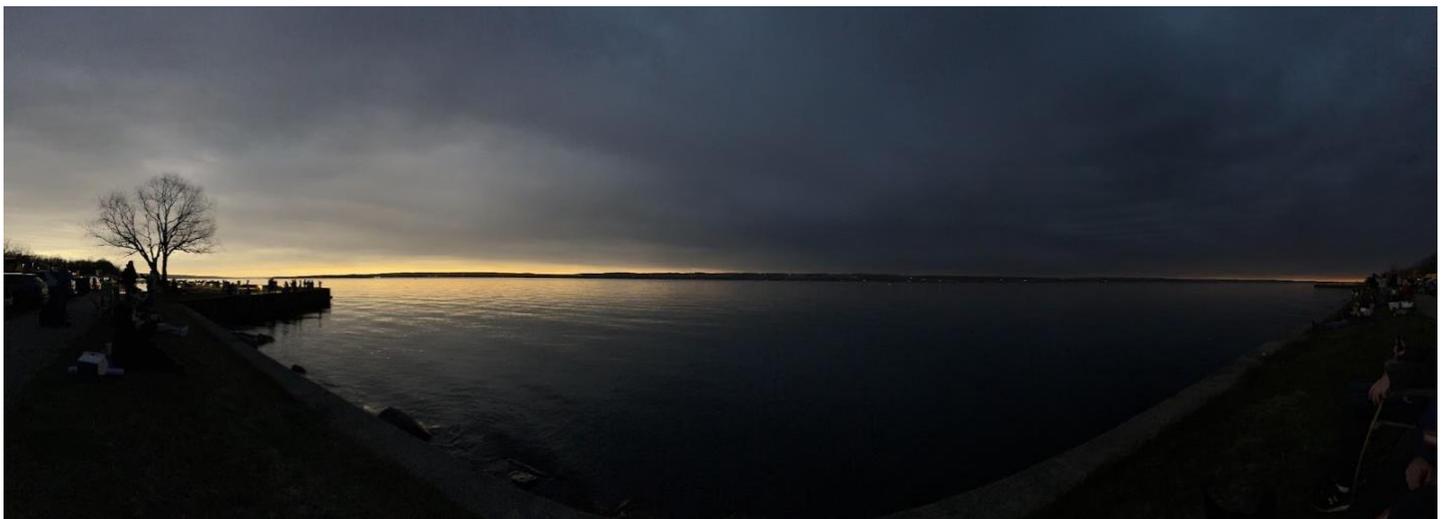


Figure 11: My favorite picture during totality- panorama that best captures the scene. Dundee glows to the south on the lefthand side of the picture, and Geneva glows to the north on the righthand side.



Figure 12: Via moonstorm.design on Pinterest.

Astrologers view solar eclipses as new beginnings. They are a time of alignment — literally and spiritually — as the Earth, moon, and sun line up. Some see solar eclipses as a time of change, renewal, and breakthrough.

So I made a change, and am starting something new since a deal lined up for me perfectly. I bought a boat!

I purchased a 14-foot Sunfish, a pre-1972 model. A week later, I found a great deal on a trailer from Facebook Marketplace. The hull needs some minor fiberglassing, and the daggerboard could use a little varnish. The only other big purchase the boat needs is a sail,

which I don't mind - because I can pick out the colors I want to match the sea-green hull! I also need to purchase a hitch for my Subaru Forester and retrofit the trailer for the Sunfish, which previously held a John boat and, before that, a jet-ski.

Sunfish hold a special place in my heart after working with the Girl Scouts for two summers and teaching them how to sail on these boats. I think this boat will be the perfect low-commitment introduction to boat ownership and maintenance for me. I also believe that it will provide me with adequate learning opportunities – fiberglassing, woodworking, sewing, trailering...



Figure 13: Thanks, Mike for helping me pick this thing up!

If you're interested in finding your own educational opportunities, ABC-FLX will certainly be providing those in the upcoming weeks!

By the time this issue comes out, our Cruising Under Power and Sail class will be underway. I am also excited to share that I have a full ABC class with 15 students set to begin on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Another ABC offering is in the works as well!

If you're interested in the purely scientific astronomical side of what is going on in the sky, I highly recommend attending our Stargazing 101 event at the Corning Community College Planetarium on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please see the details elsewhere in this newsletter! (If you're interested in the astrological side, you might have to look elsewhere for an event.)

Hope you'll see me out on the water soon! (I plan on having a very vibrant, eye-catching sail.)

- Katie

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

# Secretary's Sidenotes

By Jeff Mack, JN

SV Tiny Tina

## Contemplative Boat Yoga



A couple of weeks ago, I undertook the task of rebuilding the water intake pump on my Atomic 4 engine,

the auxiliary heart of my 1973 Saber 28 sloop. While the process of dismantling, cleaning, and replacing parts like the shaft, seals, paddle wheel, and gaskets was relatively straightforward, removing and remounting the pump itself from the backside of the engine required additional effort. A challenging ritual that is par for the course for DIY boat owners.

I found myself contorted in the cramped confines of the engine compartment, with my legs awkwardly protruding through a hatch into the port quarter berth and the top half of my body enveloping the sturdy orange engine block. As I maneuvered my arms through the tangle of wires and components to access the Oberdorfer pump, a phrase from a friend came to mind: When he went to go work on his old wooden 28' Herreshoff Ketch,

he would often say "I'm going out to do some boat yoga." Prior to owning my own sailboat, I hadn't fully grasped the significance of this term. It seemed like a lighthearted way to describe tinkering with one's yacht, a diversion from the reality of laboring over expensive toys.

However, in that moment, as I grappled with the intricacies of requisite maintenance in my own vessel, I came to understand "boat yoga" as more than just a clever phrase—it was a serious practice requiring physical exertion and concentration. I realized that my friend's witty remark wasn't merely a quip but a reflection of the demanding nature of boat maintenance.

In the midst of this challenging endeavor, I assumed a posture that might have seemed absurd to an observer, yet it was essential for the task at hand. Focused solely on the lower bolt connecting the pump to the engine block, I blocked out thoughts of the cramped engine compartment and the curious spiders lurking within. With each careful movement, I was mindful of my breath and the sensation in my fingertips as I loosened the bolt, visualizing its release from the threads and its smooth passage through the bronze eye on the pump.

Despite a minor mishap—a bolt slipping into the bilge—I remained undeterred, confident in my ability to execute the "bilge-dive-with-a-magnet-on-a-stick" maneuver. I was fully immersed in the flow of "boat yoga," uncomfortably navigating through the challenges with practiced patience and the occasional cuss word or two.

Much like yoga poses, which form the core of the practice (known as asana), boat maintenance requires its own set of poses. From "resealing-and-fastening-failing-transom-hull-to-deck-joint-through-port-lazarette" asan, to the "cobra-hand-with-wrench-turn-around-the-headliner" pose, each maneuver demands skill and precision. Some poses, like the "lazarette-spelunker-prop-shaft-cutting-wheel-chop-saw-below-the-gas-tank" pose, may even be considered hazardous. Despite the novelty of some exercises, they are all part of the very real ritual practice of vessel maintenance, known as "boat yoga." I can't wait for the annual "tighten-the-stuffing-box-nut-upside-down-wrench-half-turn-stretch" pose. Namaste!

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

---

## ABC-FLX News

---

### Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to our members!

#### May

Patricia Mason  
Sue Morris  
Ray Margeson  
Dan Kingsley  
Jaquiline Alsworth  
Jim Morris  
Don Kloeber  
Scott Williams  
Phil Cherry

#### June

Dennis Daniels  
Anne Erway  
Bill Phoenix  
Ben Wigley  
Tom Taylor

---

### Congratulations, Offshore Navigators!

A hearty "Congratulations!" to the latest graduate of the Junior Navigation class:

Scott Williams, JN

Scott has spent the better part of the past year taking sextant sights and studying hard to master the concepts of offshore and navigation. Please congratulate him the next time you see him.

---

### Save The Date: Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

Ahoy Boaters!

ABC-Finger Lakes Chapter is again sponsoring a weekend at Sampson, on August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Friday – Sail/motor from Watkins Glen and have dinner at the Vista with a live band.
- Saturday – Boating activities & Skills training
- Saturday night - Phil Smock and the *Take 3 Quartet* will be there again this year.
- Sunday – Return to Watkins Glen.

Please put this weekend on your summer calendar and get a slip reservation at Seneca Lake Resorts using the following link:

[Seneca Lake Resorts - Sampson | Reserve your campsite today \(campspot.com\)](#)

Questions? Contact Jim McGinnis at [jmcmginni@stny.rr.com](mailto:jmcmginni@stny.rr.com).

---

### The Drum Recognized

*The Drum*, the official newsletter of the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club, was recognized with the Distinguished

Communicator Award by USPS Headquarters at the most recent District Conference. Thanks to all who make this such a great publication with their submissions!

---

### NY Canal Schedule Posted

A complete schedule of operating hours for the New York Canal System has been posted on the Canal Authority web site. It has also been published in this month's issue of *The Deep 6*, the District 6 quarterly newsletter.

In addition, it was announced that fees for recreational vessel transits would be suspended for the 2024 boating season. What better excuse do you need to go exploring the canals this summer?

---

### Got News?

If you have news to share that you think would be of use to your fellow boaters, please submit it to your friendly newsletter editor so that it can be included!

## 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 me know.

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

### Cruising Under Power and Sail

Is chartering a boat in tropical, foreign waters on your bucket list? Or do you simply have a goal of cruising to the other end of the lake this summer? Learn what you need to confidently and safely plan a cruise of any distance or duration. This recently revamped course covers everything regarding boat travel, including preparation, equipment, engines, safety gear, crew considerations, provisioning, communications, navigation, anchoring, weather sources, chartering, emergencies, and international travel.

**Prerequisites:** None

**When:** Started April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (there's still time to join if you want!)

**Duration:** 9 weeks (weekly classroom sessions)

### Stargazing 101 Seminar

ABC-FLX is proud to announce the return of its very popular

*Stargazing 101 Seminar!* This seminar will show you some tips and tricks to finding your way around the night sky and gain a deeper familiarity of the constellations above. Held at the recently upgraded *Digital Dome* planetarium at Corning Community College, you will be treated to a fun evening of learning how to identify various objects in the sky as well as learning some interesting astronomical tidbits.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**When:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Planetarium presentation begins at 7:30pm. Open to the public.

A members-only pre-show social event begins at 6:00pm. A light meal will be available.

**Duration:** 90 minutes.

**Cost:** Tickets to the presentation will be \$10/person, with discounts available to seniors, students, and children. Tickets can be purchased on the Corning Community College web site. (There is a \$1 surcharge per transaction for this service.)

Food will be available at the pre-presentation social event for members. Cost for this will be approximately \$15/person. Watch your email for details.

### Celestial Navigation

Building on the Offshore Navigation class (JN), this course expands on concepts introduced in "Junior Navigation" and extends them to allow students to navigate by traditional means

using stars, planets, and the moon in addition to the sun. The classroom sessions won't begin until this fall, but sight-taking sessions will take place during the (much warmer) summer months aboard various instructors' vessels on Seneca Lake. Sight-taking sessions will take place on Fridays and Saturdays in the evening during dusk and twilight.

**Prerequisites:** Offshore Navigation (JN).

**When:** Sight taking sessions will begin in June. Classroom sessions will begin in August.

**Instructors:** Tom Alley & Jim McGinnis.

**NOTE:** Students of this class will be strongly encouraged to attend the *Stargazing 101* seminar described previously.

### Radar for Boaters

The name says it all - learn all about radar and how it works. Radar is a practical tool for navigation and collision avoidance. This course talks about radar equipment and how to use it as a boater.

**Prerequisites:** Marine Navigation (Piloting)

**When:** Fall 2024

**Duration:** 7 weeks (6 classroom sessions plus a final exam)

### Weather

Have you ever had a thunderstorm appear out of nowhere over the western hills of the lake? It can really put a

“damper” on your day of cruising! The newly revised weather course can teach you about meteorological systems, how weather is created, and signs of impending poor weather. Learn how to understand a forecast in-depth and how boaters can receive the most accurate forecasts onboard.

**Prerequisites:** None

**When:** Fall 2024, depending on interest

**Duration:** 6-8 weeks. Details TBA

---

## Emergencies On Board Seminar

No one *intends* to have any mishaps aboard when they head out to enjoy a day on the water. The truth is the best way to be prepared for an emergency on

board is to plan ahead and be prepared. This seminar teaches you how to handle and prevent common emergencies on a boat. Learn what vessel emergencies you should be the most prepared for, what to do when a fire breaks out on board, how to handle medical emergencies, and how to communicate with crew, other boats, and first responders. Refresh your memory with this seminar at the start of this year's boating season to keep yourself and your passengers safe.

**When:** TBA

**Duration:** 2 hours

---

## 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 Education Director, Katie Alley

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

or send a check made out to ABC-FLX to:

Katie Alley  
295 Stillwater Dr.  
Horseheads, NY 14845

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.

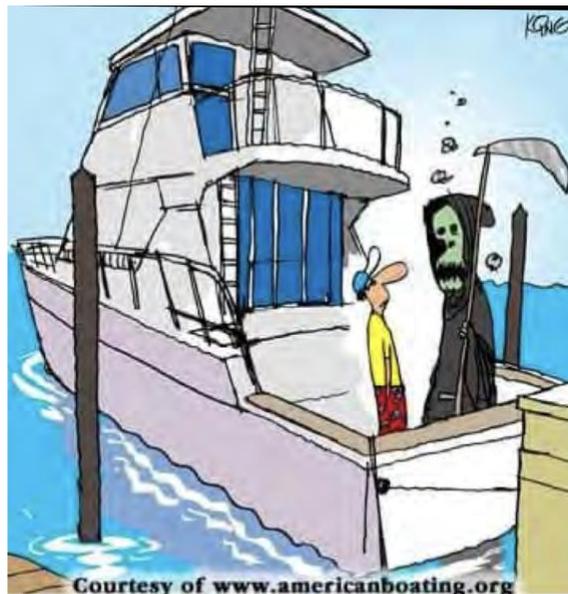
---

## Looking for Something?

ABC-FLX would be happy to hear your requests and ideas. Feel free to contact me, Katie Alley, at [SEO@abc-flx.org](mailto:SEO@abc-flx.org).

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

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



Courtesy of [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org)

*“Relax, your time isn't up. However, you can kiss your battery goodbye.”*

# Long-Term Class Schedule

Seneca Education Department

BOC Level	Title	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
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	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Coastal Navigator	Classes	Marine Navigation			X		X	
		Marine Communication Systems		X				
		Weather	X					X
	Seminars	Tides & Currents						X
		Rules of the Road	C					
		Anchoring						
		Mariner's Compass			X		X	
	Skills	Coastal Nav					X	
		Pyrotechnics				X		

BOC Level	Title	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Advanced Coastal Navigator	Classes	Advanced Marine Navigation			X		X	X
		Cruise Planning	X					
		Marine Navigation Systems		X				
		Radar	X					
	Sem.	Emergencies Onboard	X					X
		Marine Radar						
	Skills	Advanced Coastal Nav						X
		First Aid						

BOC Level	Title	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
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		X
	Canadian Regulations		X				
	Paddlesmart		X			X	
Other	Instructor Development					X	
	Instructor Recertification	X		X		X	
	Operations Training					X	
	Celestial Navigation	X			X		

**Table Key**

X = Planned

C = Completed

# The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN-CN

SV Tomfoolery

## Good News, Bad News



The good news is that the colder months of the year have just flown

by. I honestly don't know where the time went. The bad news is that the colder months of the year have just flown by, and I don't know where the time went. It seems like there was something to do not just most evenings, but also most weekends.

Good news that I'm happy to report is that the winter cover I made for *Tomfoolery* over the Holidays has held up well and still looks new. The bad news is that I haven't been aboard my treasured sloop since zipping up the last zipper on the new cover in late December.

The good news is that many of the things that were causing my time to be prioritized in ways I wouldn't have done voluntarily are getting resolved and should soon be non-issues. The bad news is that new issues are filling in the time that should have been freed up by crossing things off my to-do list.

The good news is that we'll be launching our boats soon! The bad news is that I need to finish a few projects before I can join in the fun.

More good news is that my wife and I are looking forward to our youngest going off to university this August to finish up his undergraduate degree. While this begins our (joyful) transition to official "empty nester" status, it also ushers in a couple of years where a positive cash flow in our household will become but a dreamy hope for a distant future. (I'd better get some of the more critical boat projects done now!)

I suppose that one way to look at all of this is that it is a good preparation to get back out on the water and go sailing. Sailing, like life, is the art and science of arranging and balancing all the forces acting on your boat in a way that the resulting vector pushes or pulls you toward a favorable goal.

If that analogy is, in fact, accurate, then I guess the good news is that I should be well-rehearsed to balance forces in a way that I can clean up on the sailboat racing circuit this summer. But then again, that would be seen as bad news by everyone else!

Stay balanced! See you in the boatyard.

- Your Editor, Tom

o o o o o

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

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

o o o o o

# Calendar of Events

## May 2024

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 06 ABC Class begins.
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 18-24 Safe Boating Week (National)

## June 2024

- 04 Stargazing 101 Event, *Corning Community College "Digital Dome" Planetarium, Corning, NY.*  
Member's only dinner (1800)  
Presentation – open to public (1930)
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- TBA Celestial Navigation field work begins.

## July 2024

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 12-16 Lake Ontario 300 Challenge Race.
- 19 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## August 2024

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 02-04 Summer Boater Weekend, *Sampson State Park Marina, Seneca Lake.*
- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 23 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- TBA Celestial Navigation classroom sessions begin.

## September 2024

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## October 2024

- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 19 District 6 Fall Council & Conference, *Manlius, NY* (D/6)
- 25 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 25 Deadline for *Drum* articles

## November 2024

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

## December 2024

- 20 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## January 2025

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

## February 2025

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 01-10 USPS Annual Meeting (National)
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## March 2025

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- TBA District 6 Spring Council & Conference (D/6)

## April 2025

- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 18 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 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.*