

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 Phil Cherry, AP

SV Harmony

2024 – A Great Year!

I cannot believe it's the end of the year already. It seems like just yesterday that I was preparing Harmony for the water, looking forward to a summer of warm weather and boating. It was a fantastic summer, and I am pleased to say that I was out on the boat more this year than most...so that is a great thing! However, the boat is on the hard presently, nicely wrapped for the long winter and sailing is about the last thing on my mind during the holidays.

Our organization has been very busy this year, and a great deal of thanks go out to our volunteers and instructors who make it all possible by sharing their wisdom, talent and time in the name of safe boating. We held several classes this year under the guidance and efforts of Katie Alley, our SEO, who has done an excellent job of keeping our offerings at such a high caliper. What distinguishes our club from



many others is the exceptional talent we have here in our certified instructors and the quality of our coursework, including our on the water programs, which are especially helpful to new boaters. My thanks to Katie and all our instructors for a job well done.

Thanks to Maggie Martin and others, we also held six social and learning events this season. In early April our members Tom and Katie Alley presented a special session on Celestial Navigation at an "eclipse event" at the Finger lakes Boating Museum. In early June, ABC-FLX collaborated with Corning Community College and presented a special event entitled "Stargazing 101" at the college's new Digital Dome. In July, at the new JR Dill tasting room in Watkins, we were

honored to hear Guy Schamel discussing the history of the Village marina area. In mid-September we were enlightened by Jim McGinnis on his adventures in the recent Lake Ontario race held this summer. In mid-November we met once again at Fulkerson's winery for an excellent pot-luck dinner and to learn about environmental threats to Seneca Lake, and the related efforts of Seneca Pure Waters Association. And let's not forget our signature event this past July, the summer rendezvous up at Sampson State Park, where members got to enjoy both educational and social benefits!

We've also had some challenges this year. We were notified in early fall that our association's insurance coverage, provided by our national organization, we being terminated in early December. That news sent us and others into a small tailspin, however the latest news out of National is that the problem will have been largely resolved with the new year. We are also facing challenges in our membership in both recruitment and retention. The latest figures have our membership below 50, which is much lower than it's been in the last five or ten years and which compromises our ability to recruit qualified instructors and volunteers who want to assist in our organization's efforts. I'm also concerned about the number of certified instructors we have, and the need to recruit more instructors to lessen the burden on everyone.

I'm pleased to say that however, our leadership team has formed a special team to look at strategic

planning for next year and the years to come and their work in the form of a draft plan is available in this issue of the Drum. A plan in itself does nothing but chart a course, so it is important that we all do what we can to improve and implement the plan moving forward. We encourage all members to take a look at the draft plan and to furnish any comments or concerns to any of our club officers in the coming days. Our hope is to have the plan adopted in early 2025, so please do not delay in reviewing it.

Lastly, I'll note that this is going to be my last entry in The Drum as your Commander. I have served ABC-FLX as the Secretary, as the Administrative Officer, as the Executive Officer and have now served three years as your Commander. I can't tell you what a privilege and an honor it's been being associated with ABC-FLX and the great work we do here in the Finger Lakes. While I feel a need to back away a little bit from our organization and let others take the helm, I have offered to serve as membership chair in 2025 and I look forward to being involved with the club for many years to come.

That's all for now. I hope everyone had a safe healthy and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all at the Change of Watch which is scheduled for January 12 at the Harbor Hotel in Watkins Glen. Watch for emails. See you there!

- Phil, SV Harmony

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The Drum

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From the Executive Officer

By Kris West, S

SV Zephyr

2024 in the Books



Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a nice holiday season celebrating with those you love.

As 2024 came to a close, I started to put my ship notes in order from this past sailing season. This was my second full season on Seneca Lake and the first time I started to maintain a makeshift ship's log. Generally, I was pretty good at recording the dates and number of hours sailed, wind conditions, crew aboard and whether anything needed repair along with when we completed various repairs, maintenance and improvement projects. I've found that the best thing about keeping a log is that it's a great way to relive some wonderful outings with friends and family especially during these cold, dark, winter days. Another bonus is that it will help me keep track of and plan for future exploits and maintenance projects.

Ship logs aren't required for smaller recreational vessels operating on inland waters but they can be good tools for maintaining your boat and for reliving great adventures. By starting to keep a log onboard *Zephyr* I'm hoping to build this

habit so that, in the event that I ever go further a sea, I'll have worked out a process that works best for me.

My log book is a simple diary with lined pages given to me by my sister as a boat warming gift at the end of the 2022 season. Its small enough that it fits easily in my nav table and is readily accessible. But, it lacks a format that would help me remember important information to track like, for instance, engine hours or a standardized way to record the weather.

A quick online search revealed that there are countless digital and analog ship's log options. Some look like they can get pretty complicated so I'm interested in straightforward, elegant solutions. A log will only work if it actually gets recorded so, for me and at my current level of sailing, I just jot down whatever comes to mind at the end of each visit to my boat. Clearly, there's room for improvement.

I'm curious to know if you keep a log aboard your boat and what information you record. How do you organize the information so that it's easy to store and retrieve? I'd love to learn from your experience.

Speaking of books, I also wanted to mention a few I picked up in 2024 and highly recommend if you haven't already heard of them. My son gifted me a couple classics by Don Casey: *This Old Boat* and *Don Casey's Complete Illustrated Sailboat Maintenance Manual*. I don't think I'll be sitting down to read either one cover to cover, but boy will they come in handy during my ongoing relationship with *Zephyr*!

And, one of my brothers sent me a copy of Richard King's page turner *Sailing Alone: A surprising history of isolation and survival at sea*. Peter Nichols, author of *Sea Change* and *A Voyage for Madmen* calls *Sailing Alone* "a rare and compelling history of the real explorers, the extraordinary

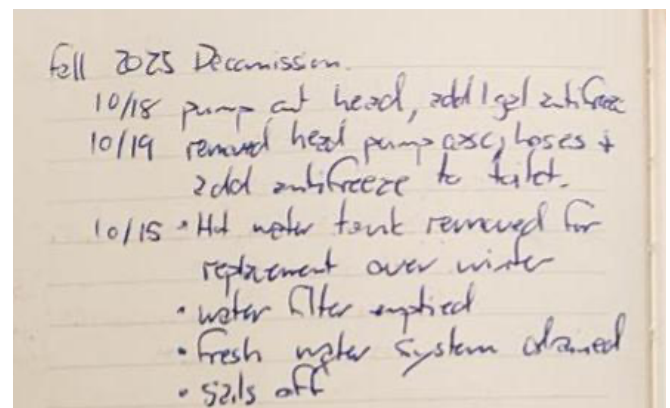


Figure 1: My logbook with an example page. Notice I don't always write things in order!

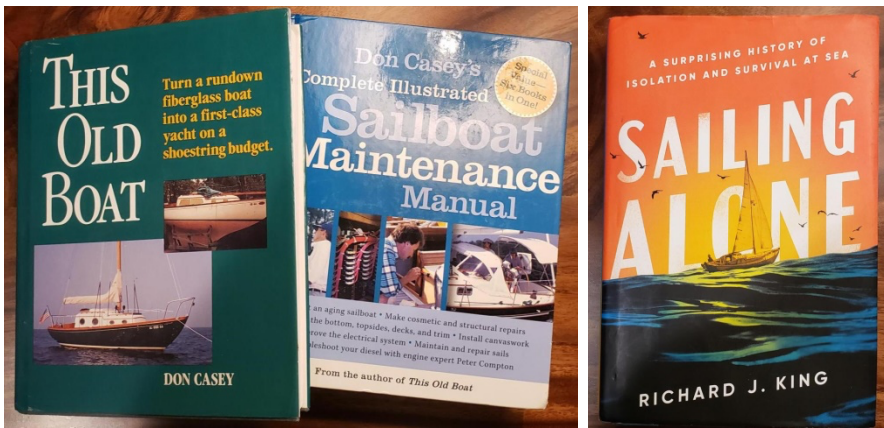


Figure 2: Thoughtful Christmas presents.

‘ordinary’ people – men, women and even children – who took off alone in tiny, often crude boats and found what we are all searching for.” King interweaves these stories with his own experience of sailing singlehanded across the Atlantic

in his twenty-eight foot cockleshell, *Fox*. It’s a great way to live vicariously as we await the arrival of Spring!

Finally, looking ahead to 2025, I hope to see you at our **Change of Watch** at the Harbor Hotel on Sunday afternoon **January 12th**.

Be sure to RSVP by January 3rd. The bridge has approved a new strategic plan which was e-mailed to you on December 19th. In case it got lost in your inbox, you can read in this issue of The Drum. Pending any additional feedback from you, our membership, we hope to adopt this plan on the 12th. I’m looking forward to hearing your thoughts about it and how you might be able to help us advance our mission to educate boaters in our area.

Happy reading!

- Kris

xo@abc-flx.org

From the Administrative Officer

By Maggie Martin

Change of Watch



Happy New Year to All! We are starting out the year with our Annual Change of Watch gathering at

The Harbor Hotel on Sunday, January 12th at 12:30. (That's the same in both Nautical time and ordinary-so we mariners don't need to translate). Following a cocktail hour, there will be a

buffet luncheon in our meeting room. I hope that you have indicated to Commander Phil if you can attend-or do so ASAP. The club is subsidizing the cost so it will only be \$25 per person, payable at the door. The reservation is your obligation to honor the commitment.

We are fortunate to have local historian Gary Emerson as our guest. He will be presenting a talk about the evolution of the waterfront from the use of sailing vessels in the very early 1800s to the change to steamboats and the canal boats. Also, along the

waterfront there once was boat building! This should be of great interest to all of us who spend much of our time in that same location.

I hope to see everyone there - and throughout the year as the club offers events, classes, and activities that keep us boaters educated, informed and entertained!

- Maggie

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From the Education Director

By Katie Alley, JN

SV Tomfoolery

2024 Memories, 2025 Hopes



What made 2024 memorable for you? Maybe it was cheering on Simone Biles during the

Summer Olympics in Paris, or maybe it was seeing *Wicked* in a movie theater.

Possibly it was the moment you saw a Cybertruck in the Southern Tier for the first time. Or perhaps, your favorite memory of 2024 was looking at pictures of Moo Deng, the adorable baby hippo in Thailand who went viral. Doubtlessly, the advances we saw in AI this year will remain memorable.

If you are a boy-band lover, you might have felt disappointed when Justin Timberlake was charged with DWI. You also might've been absolutely heartbroken when Liam Payne, former member of iconic boy-band One Direction, passed away tragically in October.

If you're a hip-hop fan, the ongoing feud between rappers Kendrick Lamar and Drake might have kept you entertained this year. (My opinion? Kendrick's diss tracks won.)

Otherwise, on the music front, 2024 brought pop-stars Sabrina

Carpenter and Chappell Roan to fame. (Your SEO's most listened to songs of the year were *Espresso* by Sabrina Carpenter and *HOT TO GO!* by Chappell Roan.) Taylor Swift's nearly-two-year-long world tour also came to an end. Singer Charli XCX's hit album *Brat*, released in June, inspired Gen Z to have a "brat summer" - a season in which we embraced partying, angst, grungy-girl style, and the color lime-green.

2024 was surely memorable in a political sense, from Trump's convictions and assassination attempt to Biden's withdrawal from the election. ("It's Joeever.") The name Luigi Magione will presumably go down in history as well.

Celestially, North America's total solar eclipse on April 8th brought remarkable sights for many of us in the Northeast.

Nautically, perhaps the most unforgettable moment was the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge when it was struck by the cargo ship *Dali* in March.

As the token-Gen-Z-member of the club, I was happy to recap the top cultural moments of 2024 for you. In terms of local squadron developments, I completed my first year as SEO! I'll save my formal education report for the Change of Watch on January 12th. (You're coming, right?)

For now, I'm pleased to share that this past year our chapter offered four formal classes, including *Cruising Under Power and Sail, Navigation*, and two iterations of *America's Boating Course*, and one in-person seminar, *Emergencies on Board*.

Furthermore, we put together a *Celestial Navigation 101* session for the public at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport earlier this year. In addition to that, we held one of our social events at the Corning Community College Observatory and were able to teach our members about navigational celestial bodies. (a.k.a., *Stargazing 101*)

Looking ahead to 2025, we have three classes on the calendar for the first half of the year - *Radar, Weather*, and *Boat Handling*.

Though I can't control what your favorite celebrity does next year, I can control what ABC-FLX offers education-wise next year. If you have any thoughts on the way I run things around there, please reach out! The new incoming commander, our Bridge, and I are very open to new ideas that will keep your membership with ABC-FLX as rewarding as possible. Let's make boating in 2025 memorable for you, in a **good** way!

- Katie

seo@abc-flx.org

Secretary's Sidenotes

By Jeff Mack, JN

SV Tiny Tina

On Projects and Pain



Winter is upon us, snow is again on the branches outside my window as I write. I am currently

in a strange limbo as a boater. Like most of us this time of year, there is that typical melancholy of missing being on the water enjoying one's vessel, but this year it goes a little deeper for me, as I will not have my own boat on the water at my beck and call next season. Instead, I will spend my time at the beck and call of my new sailboat adventure, *Minka*, who sits in my driveway patiently awaiting renovation.

Each day I see her peeking out below her silver cover with her sleek black orca-like hull. I

imagine it slicing through waves, keeping an easy motion with the sea, her form naturally evoking this notion in anyone's mind. This motivates my mind towards movement on the project. *Minka* also resides in my garage in pieces and parts that I'm collecting for all her systems, including a lightly, thoughtfully, and freshwater-used, Yanmar 1GM10 inboard diesel engine that I recently acquired. It looks almost new! It was removed with all its componentry from a Compac Horizon catboat and replaced with an electric motor by its new owner. I now have about 80% of the pieces needed for my auxiliary puzzle, but there are about a dozen more parts,

including key output components: propeller, shaft, packing gland, etc.

With all these things, *Minka* still mostly lives in my imagination and on an evolving and nucleating three-page Excel spread sheet that sorts tasks and issues into systems, wants, needs and priorities. Research, learning new skills, and asking for help are frequent action steps noted in the sheet. I have a rough plan for

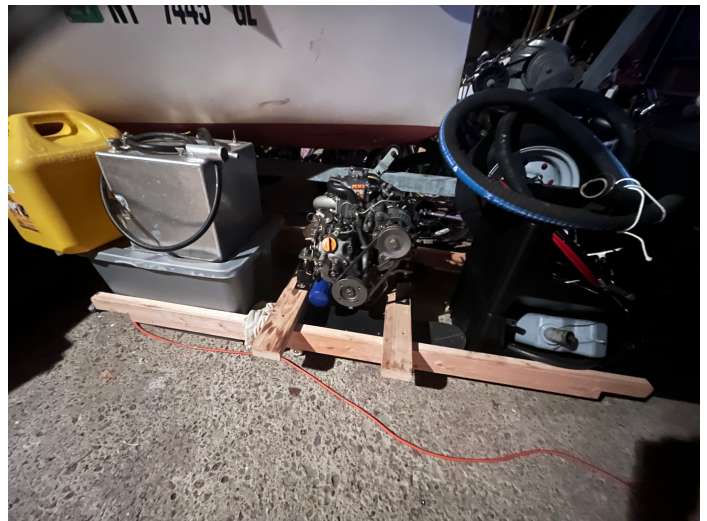


Figure 4: Diesel Engine and system components accumulating in the garage.



Figure 3: *Minka* sleeps beneath a blanket of snow.



Figure 5: *Minka*, a Heritage 20 sloop, sits in my driveway.



Figure 6: Empty engine compartment awaits inboard auxiliary.

building out the engine bearing stringers and glassing them in. I have an estimate for new sails that I'm sitting on for a minute, as it would be one of the biggest

expenses. I am guided by several books with Don Casey's *This Old Boat* as the primary guide for the overall project and planning system. It is daunting to think of all the details at once and it mustn't be done. An organized, staged approach will be the only way to see this project through for me. I am excited and scared.

So far I have only puttered around a bit on the inside of the boat, stripping it bare and scraping the old flaking paint, preparing the boat as a blank canvas for its forthcoming systems and interior paintjob.

As the winter days quickly pass, I am haunted by memories of the good times aboard my old Sabre 28, knowing I will be sailing a lot less this summer. Warm waves of

regret slosh about in my stomach when I think of the hundreds of hours of work I have ahead of me for the project I'm entertaining with *Minka*. Then the waves cool down as I realize hundreds of hours of similar work at greater cost and scale continuously awaited me with my former boat as well. Like most, I choose to prioritize the memories of being on the water, racing, relaxing and enjoying the power and beauty of the lake, rather than the blood sweat and tears it took to maintain those times.

I go into this new project full well knowing that it will be a terrible waste of time and money. It will challenge me and push me to my limits. I will bleed, I will sweat, I will cry. I will complain about it at every turn. I will feel regret for my foolishness, and I will enjoy every minute.

- Jeff

secretary@abc-flx.org

**WHEN YOU ARE STUDYING LATIN,
BUT YOU KEEP MAKING MISTAKES.**



ABC-FLX Change of Watch / Annual Meeting

65TH CHANGE OF WATCH
12:30 PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025
HARBOR HOTEL, WATKINS GLEN, NY

Agenda

- 1230 HRS - Opening Reception – Hotel Bar and Keuka Room
- 1300 HRS - Meeting Call to Order CDR Philip Cherry AP
- Invocation P/C Mark Erway, AP
- Pledge of Allegiance Lt/C Kris West, S
- Introductions: CDR Philip Cherry AP
- D/6 Commander
- Executive Committee
- Past Commanders
- 1310 HRS – Lunch
- 1340 HRS - Squadron Reports 2022..... CDR Philip Cherry AP
- Membership P/C Mark Erway, AP
- Education Lt/C Katie Alley, JN
- Audit Committee Report..... Lt/C Denis Kingsley, S
- 1350 HRS - Election of Bridge Officers..... D/C Karen Green, S, District 6
- Election of Officers, Nominating, and Audit Committee Members
- Pledge of Commander
- Pledge of Bridge Officers and Executive Committee
- 1400 HRS - Special Presentation..... Gary Emerson, Schuyler County Historian
- Seneca Lake History
- 1430 HRS - Commander’s Message..... CDR Kris West, S
- 1445 HRS - Adjourn CDR Kris West, S

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Nominations for 2025 Bridge & Committees

Nominating Committee, Jim McGinnis, Chair

ABC-Finger Lakes Chapter

The Nominating Committee Chair proposes the following nominees for 2025:

Bridge Positions:

Commander.....Kris West, S
Executive Officer James McGinnis, SN-CN
Educational Officer Katie Alley, JN
Assistant Educational Officer ...Scott Williams, JN
Administrative Officer Maggie Martin
SecretaryJeff Mack, JN
Treasurer Marcia Taylor, AP

2025 Audit Committee

Lt/C Denis Kingsley, S

Executive Committee:

P/C P/C Philip Cherry, AP
Member Shane Alsworth
Member Lt Thomas Taylor, AP
Member R/C Thomas Alley, SN-ON

2025 Nominating Committee

Kris West, S Chair
James McGinnis, SN-CN
P/C Philip Cherry, AP

Admin Committees

Publicity Glenda Gephart
Membership Philip Cherry, AP

Past Commanders of Seneca Squadron

1960 - 1961	Robert D. Maloney, JN	1990	Joan R. Eggers, AP
1962	Harold K. Glasser, N	1991	Gary C. Weber, AP
1963	Clifford W. Swain, P	1992	Leslie R. White, AP
1964	James A. Davenport, JN	1993	Howard W. Stasch, AP
1965	Michael Wagner, JN	1994	Linda S. Weber, P
1966	Gilbert L. Dann, S	1995	Dene Kimball, P
1969	Robert W. Sparrow, N	1996	Thomas K. Stantz, JN
1967	Robert W. Draper, JN	1997	Bruce A. Layton, P
1970	Bryon N. Gregg, N	1998	Merrill F. Sproul, SN
1971	William L. Schwab, N	1999	Kathleen M. Healy, P
1972	Michael Mangano, AP	2000	Peter Honsberger, P
1973	John W. Mills, N	2001	Lauren W. Lodge, S
1974	Richard H. Sachs, N	2002	Marian A. Rutty, P
1975	Billy Douglass, N	2003	Scott H. Satterlee, AP
1976	Lyman H. Howe, JN	2004	Richard Palmieri, S
1977	James A. Davenport, JN	2005	Merrill F. Sproul, SN
1978	Arthur Wolfe, Jr., AP	2006 - 2008	Russell C. Dibble, JN
1979	William L. Belles, AP	2009 - 2011	Terry L. Stewart, JN
1980	H. Allen Russell, JN	2012 - 2014	Charles J. Fausold, SN
1981 - 1982	Glenn E Boyce, AP	2015 - 2018	Mark A. Erway, AP
1983 - 1984	Stanley H. Patten, N	2019 - 2021	James E. McGinnis, SN
1985	Robert B. Chamberlin, AP	2022 - 2024	Philip Cherry, AP
1986 - 1987	Creighton J. Miller, AP	2025 -	
1988	Ronald S. Stalford, AP		
1989	David E. Jessup, AP		

ABC-FLX News

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to our members!

January

Mike Crouse
Lewis Chesebrough
Katie Alley
Shane Alsworth

February

William Alley
Jon O'Brien
Katie Chesebrough
Dee Stafford

USPS Insurance Update

Numerous rumors have circulated regarding United States Power Squadrons (USPS) insurance coverage. However, the actual events that transpired are as follows:

Prior to the Governing Board meeting in Pittsburgh last September, USPS leadership received notification from Chubb, its insurance carrier, that coverage would not be renewed and would cease effective December 1st. The reason cited was the need to pay out a substantial claim (i.e., a multi-million dollar settlement) following litigation.

It is important to clarify that this finding of liability had no bearing on the USPS, America's Boating Club, any organizational

activities, or actions by any of its members.

A (now defunct) squadron leased a storefront in a strip mall to serve as a meeting, class, and social gathering venue. The squadron then sub-leased this space to a third party (non-member), who further sub-leased it to an individual who organized a social event. During this event, an altercation occurred in the parking lot outside the venue between two attendees, resulting in gunfire and injuries to two individuals (both of whom survived). Subsequently, the lawyers pursued the chain of custody of the property until they reached the USPS (the deepest pocket), which was found liable. A multi-million dollar payout was awarded. Following the settlement, the USPS' insurance underwriter withdrew its option to renew coverage.

In response, the National Bridge, led by Treasurer Shirley Heald, initiated a comprehensive search for an alternative insurance carrier. By early November, several potential candidates had been identified, and by late November, an agreement was reached that would reinstate coverage for general liability (GL), director and officer liability (D&O), and professional liability coverage (for instructors) for the organization. This coverage

extends to all organizational levels (National, District, and local chapters) and commenced on December 1st.

In accordance with the recommendations of subject matter experts, the USPS has decided to discontinue its practice of purchasing a comprehensive insurance policy that covers all of its operational activities. Instead, the organization will adopt a strategy of dividing its coverage into multiple policies, each tailored to specific functional areas. This revised approach aims to mitigate the likelihood of future claims leading to the complete revocation of all insurance coverage.

The National Bridge is currently in the process of securing appropriate insurance coverage for its on-the-water activities and on-water instruction. Further updates will be communicated as they become available.

Got News?

If you have news to share that you think would be of use to your fellow boaters, please submit it to you 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>

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: Begins January 16th, 2025.

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: Begins March 2025

Duration: 6-8 weeks.

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

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.

America's Boating Course (ABC)

Earn your NYS Boater's Safety Card - a certification now required for all boat operators in New York! ABC-FLX prides itself on offering a unique version of this 8-hour course that includes an optional on-the-water session. During this on-the-water session, students are able to translate their newly acquired knowledge from the classroom to an actual boat ride. Our version of this class includes two hands-on classroom sessions, a review session, the exam, and the optional on-the-water-session.

What You'll Learn:

- Information about NYS boating laws, regulations, boat registration, and licensing
- Required boating safety equipment
- Basic navigation and rules of the road

- How to handle medical emergencies and mechanical problems onboard
- The basics of towing and trailering

Class size is limited. Contact Katie at SEO@abc-flx.org to be the first to receive information on how to sign up.

Prerequisites: None

When: May 2025

Where: TBA.

Duration: Two 3-hour classroom sessions, a 1-hour review session, and the exam.

Boat Handling

(Previously known as *Seamanship*) Learn how to handle your boat in a variety of situations and become the skipper you want to be. Gain confidence in docking, underway, anchoring, and other seamanship skills.

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. (Description copied from national website, not sure if you have to give credit)

Covers the following topics:

- Rules of the Road
- Docking
- Confidently handling your boat underway
- Anchoring
- Emergencies on Board
- Knots and Line Handling

Each topic is also available as a free-standing seminar.

Our instructors will enrich the course with local knowledge, experience, and discussion that will help you expand your boating horizons.

Includes on-the-water sessions!

Prerequisites: None

When: May 2025

Where: Classroom TBA. On-the-water sessions at the Watkins Glen Village Marina.

Duration: 7 weeks (including final exam).

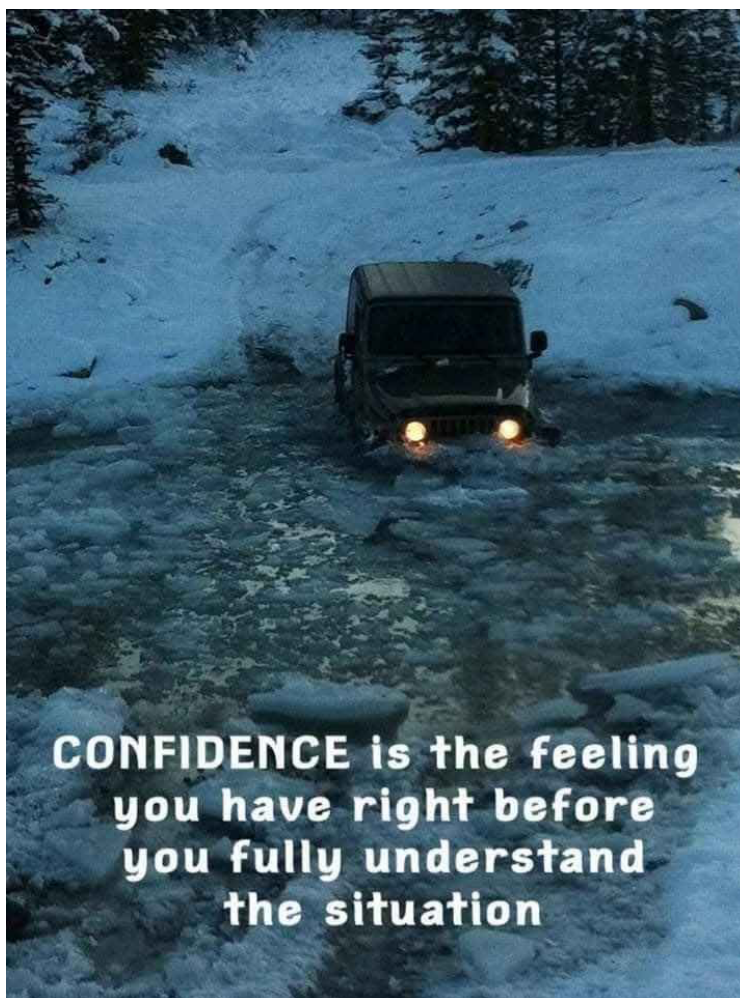
SEO@abc-flx.org.

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

www.abc-flx.org

Looking for Something?

ABC-FLX would be happy to hear your requests and ideas. Feel free to contact me, Katie Alley, at



**CONFIDENCE is the feeling
you have right before
you fully understand
the situation**

Long-Term Class Schedule

Seneca Education Department

BOC Level	Title	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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					
		VHF/DSC Radios					
		Using GPS			X		
		Basic Weather and Forecasting			X		
	Skills	Basic Powerboat Handling			X		
		Fire Extinguishers					

BOC Level	Title	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coastal Navigator	Classes	Marine Navigation	X				X
		Marine Communication Systems					
		Weather	X			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	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Advanced Coastal Navigator	Classes	Advanced Marine Navigation		X		X		X
		Cruise Planning					X	
		Radar	X					
		Emergencies Onboard					X	
	Sem.	Marine Radar (Retired 2024)						
	Skills	Advanced Coastal Nav					X	
		First Aid						

BOC Level		Title	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Offshore Navigator	C	Offshore Navigation		X				X
	Sem.	Computer Weather Forecasting	X					
		Thunderstorms / Severe Weather	X					
	Skills	Offshore Navigation					X	
		CPR/AED						
Endorsements		Sail		X		X		X
		Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes			X			X
		Canadian Regulations	X					
		Paddlesmart		X		X		
Other		Instructor Development Course				X		
		Instructor Recertification Seminar		X			X	
		Operations Training Course				X		
		Celestial Navigation Course			X		X	
		BOC Certifier Training Seminar						

Table Key

X = Planned

C = Completed

Lake Erie Adventure

By Frances Mack

S/V Pip

Just after 7 a.m. on a Monday in early July, my dad and I stuffed the bow of *Pip*, his 15-foot catboat, with all of the supplies we would need for our journey. Our provisions included an cooler full of sandwiches and snacks, blow-up mats and pillows, sleeping bags, lifejackets and floatation devices, navigation tools, first aid kit, and more. I remember feeling nervous about sailing out into Lake Erie for the first time. We planned to sail to some of the islands nearby where we were staying in Huron, Ohio. A great adventure awaited us.

We ventured out onto the vast, calm waters of Lake Erie as the sun rose, and set our course toward Kelleys Island. The wind was such that we could point the bow right at it as it slowly grew on the horizon. We sailed across the lake for nearly four hours. My dad and I took turns napping, being rocked to sleep by the gentle waves. For a time the wind died and we motored along our course. I practiced my steering and my dad showed me dead reckoning, and plotting along our way, taking fixes using a hand-bearing compass on charted towers and water tanks. On the north side of Kellys Island, we dropped anchor in a protected lagoon where people were swimming close by. We waded through soft mud to the wooded shore. There we made our way to town for lunch and explored

Kelleys Island State Park and the 18,000-year-old glacial grooves near the beach.

After our outing, we set sail again for Put-in-Bay, beckoned by Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial monument towering in the distance. The wind was light and we were moving at a jogging pace. Having sailed with my dad on Seneca Lake before, I knew a bit about the role of patience in sailing, but this leg of our trip showed me just how much sailors need to work with the elements. I learned about the relationship between a skipper and nature and gained a greater appreciation for the calm waters and breeze around me, slowly pushing us toward our destination.

By late afternoon, we made it to the marina at South Bass Island (Put-in-Bay). We walked around the little island, trying to find somewhere with cell service so we could plan for the next day and avoid a predicted storm. We didn't have luck finding service, but it ended up allowing us to really unplug and bond even more, which I am grateful for. I blew up our



Figure 7: Napping on the way to Kelleys Island.



Figure 8: Enjoying wind and waves on western Lake Erie.



Figure 9: Kelleys Island Glacial grooves.



Figure 11: Marblehead Lighthouse.

sleeping mats and pillows, while my dad slung a mosquito net and boom tent over Pip's large resting sail. My bunk was

the port side bench where the tent opened with a zipper. My dad was on the starboard side and we had a touch activated night light taped to the centerboard box between us. We then cleaned and cozied up in our tent, then were lulled to sleep by the rocking boat and to the music and cheers of Put-in-Bay parties.

The next morning, we woke up early. We walked over to Perry's monument, ate breakfast, and prepared the boat for a second day of sailing. We faced a mostly, windless and overcast morning. There was lots of motoring over glassy gray water that perfectly mirrored the sky. Our first stop of the day was at a small dock at Catawba Island. There we stretched our legs and filled the outboard tank with gas. It was coming in handy more than we would have liked that morning. Then we were off again. Next we dropped anchor along the algae covered rocks at the Marblehead Lighthouse. It was too deep and slippery to wade to land, but we admired the lighthouse from afar, watching visitors carefully climb

along the rocky shoreline. After our brief stop, we motored on

East in the direction of Cedar Point.

Along the way, my dad taught me to use the halyards to raise and lower the gaff and sail. He also taught me to chart our course on the map and I practiced plotting fixes with a hand bearing compass. It was so interesting to be able to figure out where we were on the lake and how many miles we had left in our trip without digital technology, using a paper chart and tools. It felt so special to work together with the boat.



Figure 10: Using a paper chart to find our way home.

We made a quick stop at Cedar Point, anchoring just off the beach where tourists waded in the cloud blotch afternoon. We went in the park and rode a roller coaster called the Windseeker, then we readied ourselves for the last leg of our journey. As we left the beach at Cedar Point and the sun began its slow summer evening decent. Then, as if prompted by the roller coaster, the wind finally picked up. We raised the sail and it quickly filled, pushing and pulling us in wide zig zags toward Rye Beach in Huron. We sped along, finally



Figure 12: Sun setting and weather coming. Cedar Point chausse off the starboard quarter.

with the wind on our side, it was exactly what we'd been waiting for! I practiced some of my new skills.

As we got closer to our destination, The wind grew stronger, and the waves grew higher some sloshing over the bow of the boat. The sky began to darken behind us to the West and North. It became a race between us and the incoming weather. My dad kept calm and we sailed east along the shore, racing with the brewing storm. It was exhilarating!

We were reunited with our family after our wonderful adventure. It was just the restful and reinvigorating trip that I needed to reset after finishing my undergraduate degree. We shared our stories and photos with them and rested. The next day the storm that chased us

home persisted and the lake became dark, ominous and violent. It was an indoor day.

Occasionally, between snacks, My dad and I watched out the window of the summer house as the angry surf exploded in waves along the breaker wall. I was amazed that it could be the same water I was on yesterday and grateful at that moment to be on land, safe and dry. I was glad we found a not perfect, but good enough "weather window" for our adventure. It was an amazing experience with my dad and *Pip* that I will not soon forget. I gained so much appreciation for the lake and for sailing and I learned so many new skills. I cannot wait for our next trip.

- Frances

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Frances Mack is a novice sailor and graduate of Lehigh university. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in environmental journalism at North Western University in Chicago, IL.

One thing I will never do is travel with Tom Hanks



ABC-FLX Strategic Goals & Objectives

from the Planning Committee

ABC-FLX

Introduction

The following Strategic Goals and Objectives for January 2025 is an update to “*Charting Our Future: A Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2018*” (Charlie Fausold, Commander) as updated in 2018 (Mark Erway, Commander) and 2021 (Jim McGinnis, Commander). These previous efforts have led to a number of significant accomplishments, including:

- Introduced ABC-FLX to potential new members by expanding the geographic scope of our activities to the central and northern areas of Seneca Lake
- Increased on-the-water social (annual Sampson rendezvous) and educational (Boat Handling and Boat Operator Certification) programs

- Introduced a planned progression of courses and seminars
- Increased seminar offerings
- Increased web and social media outlets
- Recruitment and training of new instructors

This new plan (see draft below) builds on that great work by focusing our efforts on actions that will hopefully sustain and grow our organization into the future.

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Strategic Goals & Objectives - Draft

MISSION

To promote safe and fun boating of any kind to anyone in the Finger Lakes region through education.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING:

- Develop and regularly review annual and 5-year education plans, providing a clear and timely pathway for members interested in advancing through America’s Boating Club grades, America’s Boating Club University and Boat Operator Certification.
- Diversify educational offerings to include, for example, more short courses, seminars, educational ‘meet ups’ and on-the-water events.
- Host events that include both educational and social content such as speakers, movie night, book club, onboard gourmet potluck.
- Promote mentoring relationships by adopting programs such as the America’s Boating Club Jump Start program and/or developing a Women on the Water program.
- Encourage the development of cohorts of students that progress through the advanced grades together.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Increase member engagement:
 - Survey existing members for satisfaction, interests and goals.
 - Solicit and respond to student feedback after every course.
 - Develop a social media strategy.
 - Improve member communications through the use of technology such as message boards, push e-mails, social media, web page.
 - Establish a robust on-boarding process for new members.
- Increase public awareness of ABC-FLX:
 - Maintain and stock the PFD tree at the two Seneca Lake kayak launches.
 - Create outreach strategy for Finger Lakes Yacht Club and Watkins Glen Yacht Club members.

➤ Develop a public outreach/media campaign centered on boater safety (e.g. Brianna's Law, life jackets, local course offerings).

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure there is a pool of qualified instructors sufficient to support a robust educational program.
- Build an 'instructor pipeline' by asking people to lead informal workshops and allowing knowledgeable people to teach courses under the guidance of certified instructors.
- Conduct the Instructor Development course and Instructor Certification Renewal classes as needed.
- Leverage District and National resources to consolidate administrative services for membership and course registration.
- Establish Squadron working groups to address succession planning, mentoring, educational programming and courses, membership and communications.

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The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN-ON

SV Tomfoolery

The Beginning



If you recall, the title of my editorial in the previous issue was “The

End”. I think it’s only fitting to title this column, “The Beginning”, because that’s the season we’re in now.

As I’m writing this, it is December 21st, the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. (9 hours and 6 minutes between sunrise and sunset in our area.) Beginning today, each subsequent day will give us a little more daylight and, eventually, a little more warmth.

As of today (12/21), I can begin my annual tradition of counting down to launch day. (145 days, in case you’re curious.) Even though we have some of the coldest days of winter still ahead of us, I can marinate in the thought of the decreasing number of days until my boat is back in her natural environment.

This time of year is also a time of renewal for our club. In less than two weeks we will hold our annual Change of Watch. This is the equivalent to an annual meeting and is required for

incorporated entities. At this meeting we will be electing and installing the team of volunteers who will take on responsibility for shepherding our local organization for the next year. Some of the team will be taking on multi-year obligations and some will be renewing their pledge to serve for an additional year-long term. I’m pleased to see some fresh faces on the team and look forward to hearing fresh ideas from folks unburdened with the bias of precedent and who are unafraid to ask, “Why is this?”

Alas, you will continue to be burdened with my ongoing tenure as newsletter editor. Apparently, I haven’t offended enough people to be pushed into retirement.

This is also the beginning of a new “semester” of classes being offered by our club’s Education Department. While we have some formal instruction taking place with the *Radar* and *Weather* elective courses, there are also a series of informal educational activities available to any interested member of our group. If there’s something you want to learn more about, just reach out to Katie, our Education Officer, to see what’s available to you.

For those of you who have been keeping track, there are a number of new beginnings in our organization at the national level as well. Effective December 1st,

we have new insurance coverage for most of our land-based activities. In some ways this coverage is even better than before because it has been much better defined and communicated than prior policies. There are still some loose ends with regards for coverage of on-the-water activities, but these should be wrapped up well before the boating season in our area begins.

By the time you read this, many of you will have just finished celebrating the birthday of a new King and the beginning of a new year. But, as those late-night TV commercials say, “Wait..., there’s more!” That statement is certainly true of our local club. There’s a lot more being queued to take place in the spring and summer.

I look forward to seeing you either in one of our classes, or at one of our social functions, or in the boatyard as we start preparing for a new boating season!

Wishing you a belated Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy, New Year.

- 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

January 2025

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* January issue publication date
- 12 Finger Lakes Change of Watch, *Harbor Hotel, Watkins Glen, NY* (1300)
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 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)

April 2025

- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 11-13 District 6 Spring Council & Conference, *Penn Yan, NY* (D/6)
- 18 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 25 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

May 2024

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17-23 Safe Boating Week (National)

June 2024

- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 20 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

July 2025

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 18 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)
- 31-8/3 D/6 Rendezvous, *Sylvan Beach, NY*. (D/6)

August 2024

- 7/31-8/3 D/6 Rendezvous, *Sylvan Beach, NY*. (D/6)
- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* Articles
- TBA Summer Boater Weekend, *Sampson State Park Marina, Seneca Lake*.

September 2025

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 06 Seneca Lake Barge Race, *Seneca Yacht Club, Geneva, NY*.
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)

October 2025

- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 24 Deadline for *Drum* articles
- TBA District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)

November 2025

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

December 2024

- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 19 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.