



**SPRING 2015  
RENDEZVOUS  
& REUNION**

**MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup>  
NORFOLK, VA**

**Inside this  
Brochure:**

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- ◆ Exhibit Area
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**4 DAYS**

**6 MEALS**



**UNLIMITED CAMARADERIE!**

**40 BOATS**

**24 SEMINARS**

**160 LIKE-  
MINDED  
PEOPLE**





# SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

	<b>Location Keys</b>					
	Yellow= Stratford Hall	Blue= Popular Hall	Green= Grand Promenade	Red=Docks		
<b>Monday, May 4th</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 5th</b>		<b>Wednesday, May 6th</b>		<b>Thursday, May 7th</b>	
	8:00-8:20 Sponsor Show & Tell Training Techniques by Captain Chris Yacht Services		8:00-8:20 Sponsor Show & Tell Services offered by SkyMed		8:00-8:20 Sponsor Show & Tell Services Offered by Deltaville Boatyard	
	8:30-8:45 Review of Day's Events		8:30-8:45 Review of Day's Events		8:30-8:45 Review of Day's Events	
	8:45-10:15 Chesapeake (Stehle)	8:45-9:45 Don't Leave without (Reves) 9:45-10:15 Personal Safety & Man Overboard (Marx)	8:45-10:15 Trent Severn & Lake Ontario (Buchner- Tentative)	8:45-10:15 Maintenance by YOU (Caldwell)	8:45-10:15 Lake Michigan (Schmidt)	8:45-9:45 Meters for Troubleshooting Problems Aboard (Ruse) 9:45-10:15 AIS (Marx)
	10:15 - 10:30 Break		10:15 - 10:30 Break		10:15-10:30 Break	
	10:30-10:45 Group Photo on Stairs					
	10:45-12:00 Delaware Bay through the Hudson River (Huggins)	10:45-12:00 How to buy your Looping Boat (Stokes)	10:30-12:00 Georgian Bay & North Channel (MacDonald)	10:30-12:00 Emergencies Aboard (Reves & Johnson)	10:30-12:00 Western Rivers (Johnson)	10:30-11:15 Locking through (Stehle) 11:15-12:15 Governmt Red Tape (Kennedy)
	12:00-1:00 Lunch/Exhibit Area & Ship's Store open		12:00-1:00 Lunch (Featuring MarinaLife) Exhibit Area & Ship's Store open		12:00-1:00 Lunch/Exhibit Area & Ship's Store open	
	1:00-2:30 NY State Canals vs. Triangle Loop (Huggins)	1:00-2:30 Best Boat for the Loop Panel (Johnson, Pica, Hechtkopf, Conrad)	Side Trips		1:00-2:30 Women's session	1:00-2:30 Men's session
			1:00-1:40 Ohio River (Pica)	1:00-1:40 Potomac River (Lloyd)		
			1:50-2:30 Upper Mississippi (Pica)	1:50-2:30 The Lake Erie Route (Lloyd)		
2:00-3:00 Pre-Rendezvous Seminar: Intro to the Great Loop (Lloyd)	2:30-2:50 Sponsor Show & Tell Waterway Guide, Demo of New Website and Apps		2:30-2:50 Sponsor Show & Tell Parkbridge Marinas - More info on these 5 Facilities		2:30-2:50 Sponsor Show & Tell (tentative)	
	3:00-3:20 Sponsor Show & Tell Curtis Stokes & Assoc, Open Q&A: Buying and Selling		3:00-3:20 Sponsor Show & Tell Landfall Nav., Marine Safety Roundtable Discussion		3:00-3:20 Sponsor Show & Tell (tentative)	
3:00-4:45 Registration, Ship Store, and Exhibit Area Open	3:30-5:30 Looper Crawls & Vessel Safety Checks		Afternoon/Dinner on your own		3:30-5:30 Looper Crawls & Vessel Safety Checks	
4:45-6:00 Intro of Loopers in Progress						
6:00 - 7:00 Beer & Wine Reception (tentative)	6:00-7:00 Beer & Wine Reception (tentative)				6:00-7:00 Beer & Wine Reception (tentative)	
7:00-9:00 Dinner (Featuring Curtis Stokes & Associates) Intro of Gold Loopers	7:00-9:00 Dinner (Featuring Waterway Guide Media and Skipper Bob Publications) Intro of Planners				7:00-9:00 Awards Dinner (Featuring PassageMaker Magazine)	



## REGISTRATION

Whether you're just starting out, in the middle of your journey or have already completed the Great Loop, there's something for everyone at the AGLCA Spring Rendezvous! Enjoy three and a half days, four nights and six meals in historic Norfolk, Virginia; all while socializing with fellow Loopers. You'll learn helpful tips and tricks, and hear stories from the Loop that'll have you crying with laughter.

Registration is \$396 per person and includes: all seminars, all group events, access to AGLCA Ship's Store on site, access to the exhibit area and six meals.

**NOTE:** Once registered, cancellations received by April 27, 2015, will be refunded less a processing fee of \$50. There will be no refund for cancellations received on or after April 28, 2015. Register early to be sure your name isn't wait-listed!

[Click here to register online](#). Or call 877-478-5667 if you have questions.

## HOTEL

Hotel reservations must be made separately from registration. The Spring Rendezvous will once again be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. The Sheraton is the only waterfront hotel in Norfolk and is a short walk away from historic attractions, upscale shops and restaurants.

AGLCA has arranged for a conference rate of \$115 per night for standard rooms and \$135 per night for king rooms. To make a reservation, call **(800) 325-3535** or click [here](#). Be sure to mention you will be attending the AGLCA Rendezvous. ***The deadline to receive the conference rate is April 6, 2015.***

The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside is located at: 777 Waterside Drive | Norfolk, VA 23510

## MARINA

If you're coming by boat, please make your reservation at **Waterside Marina**. The marina is located directly in front of the Sheraton Norfolk. The entire transient marina has been reserved for our Loopers, but, you **MUST** reserve your slip directly with the marina. To make a reservation, please call **757-625-3625**. Be sure to mention you will be attending the AGLCA Rendezvous. The rate is \$1.50 per foot.

HOTEL AND MARINA



## MAIN SEMINARS (Stratford York Ballroom, 3rd Floor)

All of the Main Seminars cover what to expect on the waterways. The seminar titles describe the geographic area covered. Included in the seminar will be *information about navigation, anchorages, marinas, points of interest.*, etc. They are presented by members and industry experts with extensive experience cruising the waters of those areas. Individual speaker information is listed below.

- **Cruising the Chesapeake (Tues, 8:45-10:15) presented by Ted Stehle, Waterway Guide Media**

Ted Stehle and his wife, Audrey, are Waterway Guide's cruising editors for the inland rivers and the Tenn-Tom Waterway, from Chicago to Mobile Bay, for the Great Lakes Guide. They began boating as sailors in the early 1970s on the Chesapeake Bay and then switched to power after retirement. In addition to extensive cruising of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, they have traveled the ICW to Florida many times, completed the Great Loop, cruised the Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers and made six trips on the Tenn-Tom Waterway.

- **Delaware/NJ/NY/Hudson River (Tues., 10:30-11:30) presented by Larry Huggins**

Larry and Lola Huggins started their two-and-a-half Great Loop adventures in 2005, and living aboard for after that five-and-a-half years. Using a multi-year cruise plan, they spent summers in the Chesapeake or North Channel and winters in Florida or St. Simons, Ga. Their first Rendezvous was 2004 to help finalize departure plans for their first Loop. This is their 18th AGLCA Rendezvous!

- **New York State Canals or the Little Triangle? (Tues., 1:00-2:30) presented by Larry Huggins**

This new session will present two route options for accessing the Great Lakes, 1) The Erie Canal to the Oswego Canal; or 2) Lake Champlain to the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Rideau Canal. The decision goes beyond just your air draft. Come hear the highlights of each option.

- **Lake Ontario/Rideau and Trent-Severn Canals (Wed., 8:45-10:15) presented by Chad Buchner (tentative)**

Chad Buchner is the Manager of Canal Operations for Parks Canada. Chad began his career with Parks Canada as a student at the Peterborough Lift Lock on the Trent-Severn Waterway in 1999. The son of a Lockmaster, he followed in the family tradition when he became the youngest Lockmaster on the Trent-Severn Waterway at age 25.

MAIN SEMINARS



## **MAIN SEMINARS** (Stratford York Ballroom, 3rd Floor)

- **Georgian Bay and the North Channel (Wed., 10:30-12:00) presented by Ken MacDonald, Parkbridge Marinas**

Ken MacDonald is the Director of Marina Operations for Parkbridge Lifestyle Communities in Ontario, Canada. He has been in the marine industry for 35 years and previously owned marinas on both Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay. A Certified Marina Manager (CMM), Ken has held leadership positions with the International Association of Marine Industries, the Ontario Marine Operators Association, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association's Boat Show advisory committee, to name a few. Ken has led a successful boating rendezvous for the past two decades, encouraging and teaching new boaters about safety and waterway passage techniques. In 2014, Ken was honored by the Canadian Safe Boating Council, when he was named the "Marine Professional of the Year" at the Canadian Safe Boating Awards.

- **Lake Michigan (Thu., 8:45-10:15) presented by Randy Schmidt**

Captain Randall Schmidt and his wife, Kristin, completed the Great Loop in 2014 aboard their 42 foot Tiara, *Kristin Says*. Captain Randy has been boating on Lake Michigan for almost 35 years, including 25 years as a licensed US Coast Guard Captain (100 Ton Master License). Kristin and Randy have extensive experience cruising the Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana shores of Lake Michigan. Randy is also active in boating, fishing and chartering organizations on both a local and national level. He is currently a board member of the National Association of Charterboat Operators, the President of the Chicago Sportfishing Association, a director and Treasurer of the Diversey Yacht Club, and a member of the Mayor's Fishing Advisory Committee. When not on the water, Randy is a Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School.

- **The Western Rivers (Thu., 10:30-12:00) presented by Rick and Betsy Johnson**

Master Captains Betsy and Rick Johnson completed the Great Loop in 2010 in their 26 foot Glacier Bay catamaran. They are veteran cruisers and have traveled on various vessels on the Western Rivers many times. Both native North Carolinians, they also have extensive knowledge of their home waters on the Intracoastal Waterway and have done extensive cruising on the east coast. Their current boat is 36 foot Endeavour TrawlerCat named Rick 'n Roll 3.

**MAIN SEMINARS**



## MAIN SEMINARS

### Side Trips (Wed., 1:00—2:30)

New this year, we're covering four possible side trips within 90 minutes! Two expert speakers will present simultaneously, and attendees have the choice of which to attend. The sessions are:

#### Choose one (1:00 – 1:40):

- **The Ohio River, presented by Joe Pica (Stratford York Ballroom):** Joe Pica is a Gold Looper who completed the Great Loop in 2009 and again in 2011. He is an active contributor to the AGLCA Discussion Forum. Joe will take us up the Ohio River from Paducah to Pittsburgh.

OR

- **The Potomac River presented by Alan Lloyd (Poplar Hall)** Alan Lloyd is the author of Great Loop Navigation Notes. He and his wife, Jean, completed the Great Loop in 2003 and again in 2004. They continue to be avid cruisers and most recently cruised the Potomac to our nation's Capital in 2014.

#### Choose one (1:50 – 2:30):

- **The Upper Mississippi, presented by Joe Pica (Stratford York Ballroom):** In this session, Joe will take us on the Upper Mississippi from its junction with the Illinois River to the end of navigation above Minneapolis. Joe last cruised the Upper Mississippi in September of 2014.

OR

- **The Western Erie Canal, presented by Alan Lloyd (Poplar Hall):** This alternative to the Trent-Severn is sometimes taken by Loopers as a side trip. Alan will take us from the Western Erie Canal to Lake Erie, the Detroit River, the Bruce Peninsula of Canada and rejoin the Great Loop at Killarney. This session provides the third Great Loop option for accessing the Great Lakes (the first two are covered by Larry Huggins on Tuesday afternoon).

MAIN SEMINARS



## **LOOPING 101** (Poplar Hall, 3rd Floor)

- **Don't Leave Without... (Tues., 8:45-9:45) presented by Jenny and Dr. Jerry Reves**

This session covers the required equipment and other items to have aboard before leaving on your Great Loop adventure. The Reves, who completed the Great Loop aboard "*Sweetgrass*" in 2012, will itemize the necessary gear and categorize it as "Essential", "Good" to have, or a "Luxury". Jerry and Jenny were the winners of the prestigious AGLCA Harbor Host of the Year Award in 2013.

- **Personal Safety & Man Overboard (Tues., 9:45—10:15) presented by Capt. Henry Marx**

This session covers information on the different types of life jackets available and Man Overboard procedures and useful gear. Capt. Henry Marx is owner and president of Landfall Navigation. As part of his Marine Education Effort, Capt. Marx produced an instructional videotape entitled "LORAN C - A Navigators Approach". He holds copyrights on two navigation and one marine safety course, which he regularly teaches.

- **Tips for Buying a Boat (Tues., 10:45-12:00) presented by Curtis Stokes, Curtis Stokes & Associates**

Curtis Stokes will teach you how to find and purchase your perfect boat for the Great Loop. As President of Curtis Stokes & Associates, Inc., Curtis handles about 40-50 yacht sales a year, so he has extensive knowledge in all stages of the yacht buying and selling process. Prior to that, Curtis was most recently a licensed yacht broker with The Sacks Group Yachting Professionals after serving as sales manager at Hatteras Yachts. Curtis was a yacht captain before moving ashore and he completed several circumnavigations and held U.S., U.K. and Cayman Islands 3,000 ton All Oceans Master licenses. Curtis particularly enjoys working as a buyer broker for a select group of his clients, where he acts more as a consultant than a salesman for their yacht-buying adventure.

- **Panel Discussion: What's the Best Boat for the Great Loop (Tues., 1:00—2:30)**

What's the best boat for the Great Loop? While there's no one answer to this question, the panel will help you decide what may be best for you. Each panelist will share what type of boat they chose for their Great Loop (they're all very different!), what they liked about it, and what, in hindsight, they might change about their boat. Following the panelists' boat descriptions, the floor will open for general Q&A about boats for the Loop. The Panelists are:

- Rick Johnson: Completed the Great Loop in 2010 aboard a 26' Glacier Bay Powercat
- Joe Pica: Completed the Great Loop in 2009 and 2011 aboard a Great Harbor N37 Trawler
- Michael Hechtkopf: Completed the Great Loop in 2014 aboard a 50' Viking Sports Cruiser
- Patsy Conrad: Completed the Great Loop in 2002 aboard a 28' Catalina sailboat

**LOOPING 101**



## **LOOPING 101** (Poplar Hall, 3rd Floor)

- **Cruising Maintenance by YOU (Wed., 8:45—10:15) presented by Captains Chris & Alyse Caldwell, Captain Chris Yacht Services**

Come learn about some of the basic items of owner maintenance, including cooling system and fuel filter changing. At the end of this seminar the floor will be open to any and all questions, including propulsion, generators, air conditioners, batteries, holding tanks and whatever else cruisers like to talk about. Capt. Chris Caldwell earned his first USCG Captain's License at age 18, working in charter fishing and SCUBA operations in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Keys. In addition, he and his wife Captain Alyse lived and cruised on their GulfStar 44 foot Motor Cruiser until they began welcoming clients aboard to share their experience —trawler training and living the dream.

- **Emergencies Aboard (Wed., 10:30—12:00) presented by Dr. Jerry & Jenny Reves and Gilbert Johnson of SkyMed)**

Dr. Jerry Reves, the former Dean of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, will be back to teach you how to handle medical emergencies that may occur on-board. In addition, Gilbert Johnson of SkyMed will discuss how to return home from a far away location when a medical emergency arises.

- **Meters for Troubleshooting Problems Aboard (Thu., 8:45—9:45) presented by Keith Ruse, Deltaville**

Keith Ruse of Deltaville Boatyard will describe how to trouble shoot various problems aboard using meters. Keith is a 25-year industry veteran and ABYC certified Master Technician.

- **AIS (Thur., 9:45-10:15) presented by Capt. Henry Marx, Landfall Navigation**

Captain Henry Marx will return to provide information on why you may want an AIS aboard during your Great Loop, and how to use it. See bio under Personal Safety and Man Overboard.

**LOOPING 101**





## **LOOPING 101** (Poplar Hall, 3rd Floor)

- **How to Handle those Locks (Thu., 10:30—11:15) presented by Ted Stehle, Waterway Guide Media.**

Ted Stehle of Waterway Guide Media will teach tips and tricks for handling the many locks you'll encounter on your Great Loop journey. See bio under Main Seminars.

- **Government Red Tape (Thu., 11:15—12:15) presented by David Kennedy of Boat U.S.**

David B. Kennedy from Boat U.S. Government Affairs will be here to cover issues related to "Government Red Tape" and the Great Loop. Specific topics include rules for American citizens entering Canada by boat, Canadian citizens entering the U.S. by boat, Florida's Sojourner's Permit, Sales tax, etc.

- **Mens' & Womens' sessions (Thu., 1:00—2:30)**

Back by popular demand the ladies and gentlemen will split into separate rooms for an open discussion on anything that may not have been covered by the formal seminars during the Rendezvous.

## **SPONSOR SHOW & TELL SEMINARS**

Join some of our Sponsors for sessions on topics such as:

- Tues, 8:00 am: Tips & Tricks for Anchoring and Locking on the Great Loop, Capt. Chris Caldwell
- Tues, 2:30 pm: Waterway Guide's new website and apps, Ted Stehle
- Tues., 3:00 pm: Open Q&A on the boat buying and selling process, Curtis Stokes
- Wed., 8:00 am: Services offered by SkyMed, Gilbert Johnson
- Wed., 2:30 pm: More info on Parkbridge Marinas, Ken MacDonald
- Wed., 3:00 pm: Marine Safety Round Table Discussion led by Capt. Henry Marx
- Thu., 8:00 am: Services Offered by Deltaville Boatyard led by Keith Ruse
- More to be announced

**LOOPING 101**



# LOOPER CRAWLS & MORE

## LOOPER CRAWLS

Looking for a boat? Not sure where to begin? Attend a Looper Crawl at the Rendezvous and see all kinds of makes and models in person! Boats range in size from 50-foot trawlers and motor yachts to smaller cabin cruisers and trailerable boats.

The Looper Crawl functions as an "open house", where members who brought their boats to the Rendezvous allow other attendees to tour their boat. Ask questions! Owners love explaining why they chose their boat. It's a great opportunity to get answers from people who are currently cruising the Loop or have already completed the Loop.

Even if you have a boat, the Looper Crawl allows you to mingle with other boat owners and get ideas for improvements or enhancements aboard your own vessel.

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

Safety is a boater's first concern, and we're here to help put your mind at ease with complimentary vessel safety checks.

A certified boat inspector (certified by Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadron) will check for all Coast Guard mandated equipment.

The inspector will also check the general condition of the boat and look for problems such as leaks, oil in the bilge, etc. Once the safety review is over, you'll receive a compliance sticker noting the date of inspection.



# EXHIBITS & SHIP'S STORE

## EXHIBIT AREA

Get A to Z access to everything boating, conveniently located in one area of the Rendezvous. Our exhibitors represent the best in the industry and include:

- ⇒ **Boatyards**
- ⇒ **Cruising Publications**
- ⇒ **Equipment/Supplies**
- ⇒ **Insurance**
- ⇒ **Marinas**
- ⇒ **Vessel Training**
- ⇒ **Yacht Brokers**

If you're looking for a hassle-free place to shop around and talk to experts, this is it - a friendly environment that puts you in charge. Be sure to take notes!

## SHIP'S STORE

Visit the Ship's Store to purchase your AGLCA Great Loop burgee. You'll also find wearable merchandise, so you can distinguish yourself as an AGLCA member (An easy way to meet other members!).

The Ship's store carries the Waterway Guide and Skipper Bob cruising manuals, as well as travel books recounting adventures along the Great Loop. Don't forget to grab a poster size map of the Great Loop to hang in your ship's cabin.