



**Great Loop Discovery
Chicago, IL**

**Friday, September 11, 2026 & Saturday, September 12, 2026
AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Friday, September 11th

**Optional Add-On Event
Boat Buying Workshop Presented by *Great Loop Yacht Sales***

This optional workshop is free for anyone registering for the Great Loop Discovery seminar, but you must check the box during registration to attend!



Start	End	Session	Presenter(s)
8:30	9:15	Registration for those attending Boat Buying Workshop	
9:15	10:45	How to Find and Buy Your Perfect Great Loop Boat Buying a boat can either be one of the most stressful parts of Looping, or it can be a fun adventure. Seasoned Loopers and founders of Great Loop Yacht Sales, Michael Martin and Brent Bowlin, believe the process should be an educational, painless, and positive experience that sets the tone for your Loop. During this session, Michael and Brent will give you an overview of the boat buying process and dive into some features on a variety of popular makes/models to help you determine the right boat for your Loop.	Michael Martin & Brent Bowlin, <i>Great Loop Yacht Sales</i>
10:45	11:00	Break	
11:00	11:30	Planning for the Cost of Looping Kim Russo interviews Cathy Aull about how to plan your finances to cover your Looping boat and the adventure itself.	Cathy Aull, <i>Edward Jones</i>
11:30	12:15	TBD	
12:15	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	1:45	Financing your Great Loop Boat This session will provide information on how to obtain financing for your boat, including general bank requirements for a down payment, terms, and other factors that affect financing such as the age of the boat. Cindy will also give details on the overall state of the market and why one should consider borrowing versus paying cash for their vessel.	Cindy Lewis, <i>Sterling Associates</i>



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Great Loop Discovery Seminar
Friday, September 11th

Start	End	Session	Presenter(s)
1:00	2:00	Registration for those not attending the morning Boat Buying Workshop	
2:00	3:15	Discover America's Great Loop Curious about America's Great Loop and what makes this cruising adventure so special? Join Kim Russo for an engaging visual journey around the 6,000-mile route as she shares highlights from the waterways, destinations, and experiences that make the Loop the adventure of a lifetime. Along the way, you'll learn the basics of the route, hear answers to common questions from future Loopers, and gain insight into what it's really like to cruise the Great Loop.	Kim Russo, <i>AGLCA</i>
3:15	3:35	Story of Our Loop <i>Live the Dash, Silverton 450, Completed in 2024</i>	The Bohonek Family, <i>Gold Loopers</i>
3:35	3:45	Break	
3:45	5:00	TBD	
5:00	6:00	Cash Bar Reception	

Saturday, September 12th

9:00	9:20	Story of Our Loop <i>Valkyrie, Sargo 36 Explorer, Completed in 2025</i>	Richard & Jacob Neuman, <i>Gold Loopers</i>
9:20	10:20	Locking with Confidence For many first-time Loopers, locks can feel like one of the most intimidating parts of the Great Loop. The good news? A little preparation goes a long way. In this seminar, AGLCA Director Kim Russo walks you through the different types of locks you'll encounter and exactly what to expect in each one. You'll learn practical steps to prepare your boat, communicate with lockmasters, and handle every situation with confidence. Since most Loopers pass through more than 100 locks on their journey, this session will give you the knowledge and peace of mind to make each one smooth and stress-free.	Kim Russo, <i>AGLCA</i>
10:20	10:30	Break	

10:30	12:00	<p>DIY Maintenance Save time and some money by taking on routine and periodic maintenance yourself. If you have changed the oil in your car, you can change the oil in your boat. And while you're at it, let's take it to the next level and change the fuel and oil filters, water pump impellor, pencil zincs and serpentine belt. It's as easy as D I Y.</p>	Jay Kraft, <i>Trawlers Great Lakes</i>
12:00	12:45	<p>Lunch</p>	
12:45	1:05	<p>Story of Our Loop <i>Ti Amo</i>, 40' Nordic Tug, Completed in 2025 and In Progress again</p>	April & Rio DeGennaro, <i>Gold Loopers</i>
1:05	2:20	<p>Weather 101: Understanding Weather Patterns Around the Loop After an in-depth look at weather terms and resources, this session focuses on different geographic and climatic weather variables (wind, current, depth, tides). We will explain what go/no-go decision-making criteria is and how it can vary across different sections of the Great Loop. We will focus on understanding weather patterns and how the weather may impact the waterways you are traveling so you can make the best decisions for your boat and crew.</p>	April & Rio DeGennaro, <i>Gold Loopers</i>
2:20	2:30	<p>Break</p>	
2:30	3:45	<p>From Dream to Departure: Planning Your Great Loop Adventure You've decided you want to do the Great Loop—now what? This session is designed to help future Loopers move from dreaming to planning with practical advice, preparation tips, and insights gathered from years of helping cruisers prepare for the adventure of a lifetime. We'll cover what to bring, how to prepare, and the questions nearly every planner asks before heading out on the Loop.</p>	Kim Russo, <i>AGLCA</i>
3:45	4:05	<p>Story of Our Loop <i>Pony</i>, 31' Ranger Tug, Completed in 2023</p>	Kim Fleeer & Ted Hingst, <i>Gold Loopers</i>
4:05	4:15	<p>Break</p>	
4:15	5:00	<p>Open Q&A, Wrap Up, Door Prizes</p>	