



Great Loop Cruising: A Guide to the Looper Lifestyle Bay Area Houston, TX

Friday, March 27, 2026 & Saturday, March 28, 2026

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE Friday, March 27th

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

This optional workshop is free for anyone registering for the Looper Lifestyle seminar, but you must check the box during registration to attend this optional add-on.



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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Looper Lifestyle Seminar Friday, March 27

Start	End	Session	Presenter(s)
1:00	2:00	Registration for those not attending the morning Boat Buying Workshop	
2:00	3:15	Intro to the Great Loop Kim Russo will cover the basics of the Great Loop route, answer some of the most frequently asked questions, and take you on a tour of the Great Loop through photos, sharing important details along the way.	Kim Russo, AGLCA
3:15	3:35	Story of Our Loop <i>Blue Tortuga</i> , Mainship 400, Completed in 2025	Kevin & Edie Williams
3:35	3:45	Break	
3:45	5:00	Be Loop Smart and Boat Smart Rev and Sam from <i>What Yacht To Do's</i> Great Loop Academy will present a session on 1) things to consider or do to get yourself ready, <u>and</u> 2) things for you to consider on a Loop boat . Even if you already have your boat, there are things you can do, add, or upgrade for compatibility, comfort, and above all, safety! As seasoned Loopers and AGLCA sponsors, they have been around the Loop twice as a couple and started a third. Sam has also been on over 30 other Loop boats conducting training for new Loopers, so he has seen what works and what presents challenges. Get the information you need to make smart decisions.	Rev & Sam Crouse, <i>What Yacht to Do</i>
5:00	6:00	Cash Bar Reception	

Saturday, March 28th

9:00	9:20	Story of Our Loop <i>Live the Dash</i> , Silverton 45, Completed in 2024	The Bohonek Family
9:20	10:20	Weather Wise: Managing Weather on America's Great Loop Weather is one of the most critical factors in successfully completing America's Great Loop. In this session, we'll break down how weather truly impacts safety, comfort, timelines, and decision-making while cruising the Loop. We'll cover why weather planning matters beyond just "checking the forecast," what key factors to monitor daily, how to plan ahead and how to recognize when staying put is the smartest move. The session will also explore commonly used weather tools and platforms among Loopers—what they do well, where they fall short, and how to combine multiple sources	Kevin & Edie Williams

for better situational awareness. Whether you are preparing for your first Loop or refining your approach after time on the water, you'll leave with a clearer framework for making confident, weather-smart decisions underway. Practical, real-world focused, and Looper-tested—this session is designed to help you cruise safer, calmer, and with fewer surprises.

10:20	10:30	Break	
10:30	12:00	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 zincks and serpentine belt. It's as easy as D I Y.	Jay Kraft, <i>Trawlers Great Lakes</i>
12:00	12:45	Lunch	
12:45	1:05	Story of Our Loop <i>Patience, 40' Silverton, Completed in 2024</i>	Mike and Joanne Tackett
1:05	2:20	Navigation Basics - Key Skills & Some Resources for Looping Robert Rice is a boating safety instructor with the US Coast Guard's unpaid volunteer component, the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Robert will introduce some of the main navigation skills you will need to do the Loop. Plus, cover some of the most used planning resources for Loopers, and the most commonly used electronic navigation apps for phones or tablets. The Loop is really just a long series of one-day boat trips. Armed with the right skills, resources and knowledge you can do the Loop. This session will help you get started.	Robert Rice
2:20	2:30	Break	
2:30	3:45	Planning Your Adventure This session includes an overview of tips and essential items to bring with you on your Great Loop Adventure.	Kim Russo
3:45	4:05	Story of Our Loop <i>Here's to Us!, Carver 504, Completed in 2019 & 2022</i>	Rev & Sam Crouse
4:05	4:15	Break	
4:15	5:00	Open Q&A, Wrap Up, Door Prizes	