

# America's Great Loop

Capt. John & Priscilla  
Simons



# What is America's Great Loop?



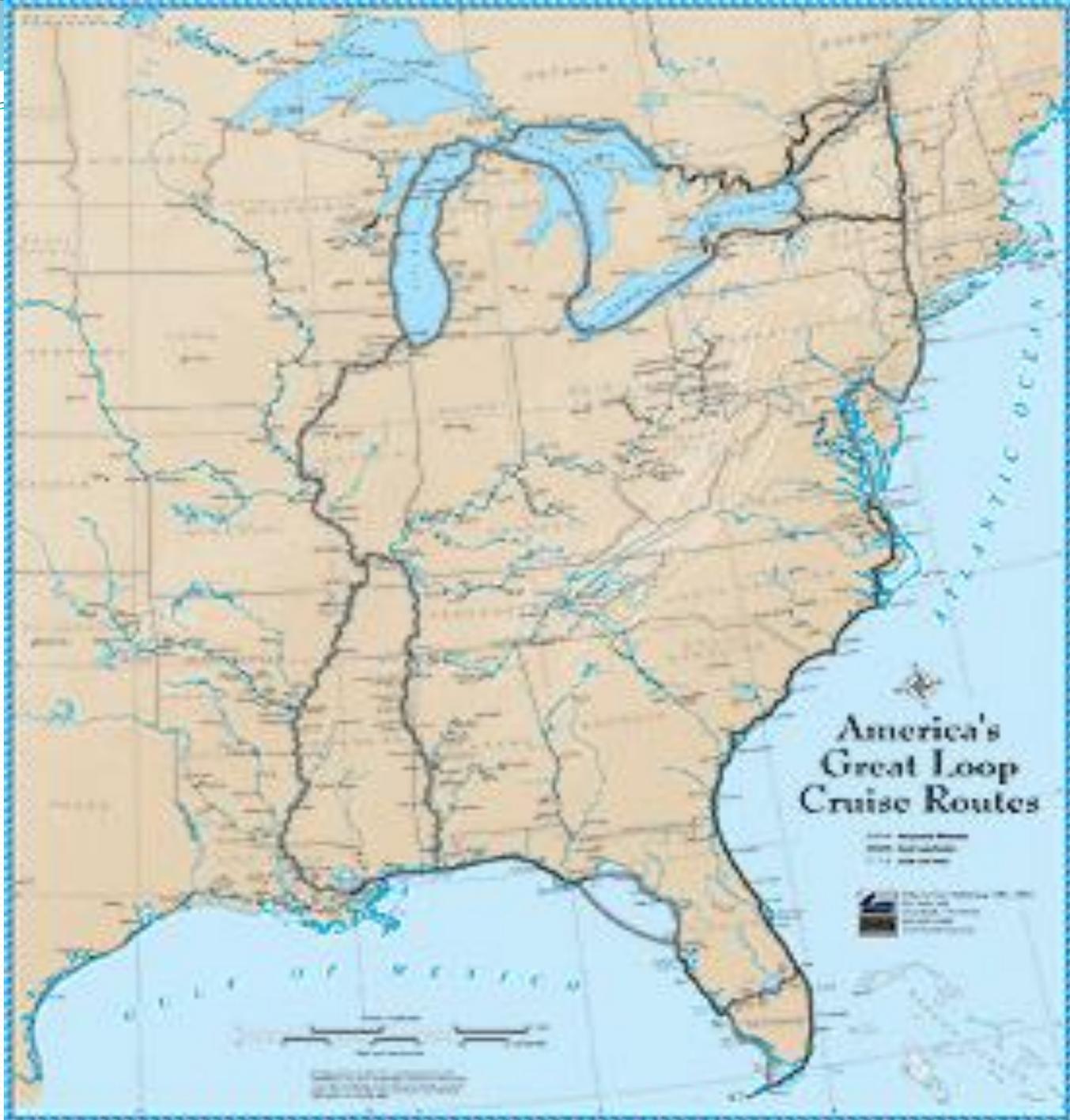
# What is America's Great Loop?

The adventure of a lifetime or two or three

A one year boat ride ( or longer or shorter )  
cruising approximately 6,500 miles

See the river system, gulf coast, eastern  
US, Bahamas and Canada from the water  
side.

Meet lots of interesting people and make  
many new friends.





START  
9-23-2015

COMPLETE  
9-17-2016

# America's Great Loop Cruise Routes

- International Waters
  - Great Lakes (Northbound)
  - Great Lakes (Southbound)
  - Atlantic Ocean (Northbound)
  - Atlantic Ocean (Southbound)
  - Caribbean Sea
- America's Great Loop  
Cruise Routes  
© 2015  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Coast Guard



# My Daily Looper Blog

[www.captainfatherjohn.com](http://www.captainfatherjohn.com)

# What is America's Great Loop?

A series of 30, 50 or 100 mile day trips from one marina to the next or from one anchorage to another

You might be out of sight of land five times

- Gulf of Mexico
- Gulf stream to the Bahamas and return
- Lake Ontario
- Lake Michigan

You will be near an airport or car rental agency almost every day

# Looper Basics

There are approximately 250 boats traveling on the Loop annually.

Look for the AGLCA burgee for instant camaraderie.

White burgee – in progress

Gold burgee - completed one loop

Platinum burgee - completed two or more loops.

# Looper Burgees





# What's on Your Bucket List?



# Looper Basics

Many people talk about doing the Loop then life gets in the way.

Illness of one of the spouses is one main reason the dream is never realized.

Unable to cast off the dock lines due to too much “stuff” to deal with. Life gets in the way of living.

# Looper Basics

## “The Stuff”

What to do with my home? – sell, rent or close it.

What to do with the mail?

How can I get my prescriptions?

I will miss my kids and grandkids too much.

**All of these things can be worked out!**

# Looper Basics

If you are “all in” on the cruising lifestyle - sell the house and your accumulation of stuff.

We have met Loopers that cashed out their 401K to do the Loop while they are still young.

Some Loopers take the kids and home school them.

Some Loopers continue to work from their boat or fly home to work from time to time.



# What is the ideal Looper Boat?

It depends

# What is the ideal Looper boat?



# Looper Basics

The boat you have might be a good Looper boat if:

Draft 5' or less – ideally 4' or less

Maximum air clearance – 19.1'

# What is the ideal Looper boat?

Trawler

Cruiser

Express cruiser

Power cat

Sailboat

Inflatable

Jet ski

Paddle board

# What is the Ideal Looper Boat?



# What is the Ideal Looper Boat?



# What is the ideal Looper Boat?



# Looper Boat

Two GPS's – AIS - perhaps radar

Dingy that is easy to launch and retrieve

Generator

Air conditioning

Satellite TV

Cockpit enclosure

Autopilot

Anchor, chain and windless

# Looper Basics

## The Boat:

- Buy a Looper boat and learn how to use it.
- Gas or diesel, one engine or two, bow and or stern thrusters?
- Understand the maintenance requirements and schedule. Oil and oil filters, fuel filters, transmission oil, zincs – engine and shafts.
- You will be in salt water. Type of bottom paint?

# Looper Basics

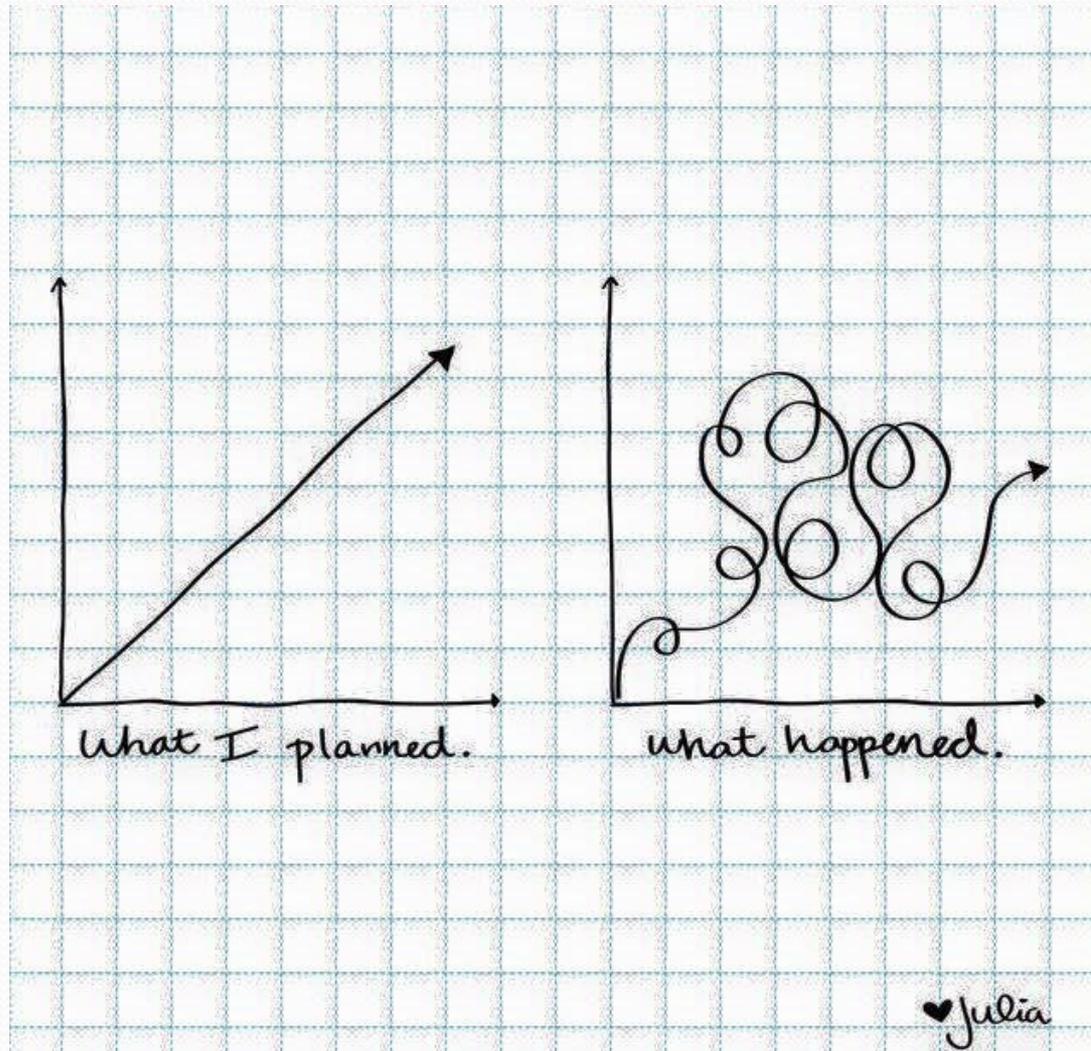
When should I depart for the Loop?

Your goal is to be chasing 80

If the temperature is forecast to be less than 80\*f – move

Depart Lake Michigan mid-September and head south on the rivers

# Make plan and be very flexible



Make plans and be very flexible



# Looper Basics

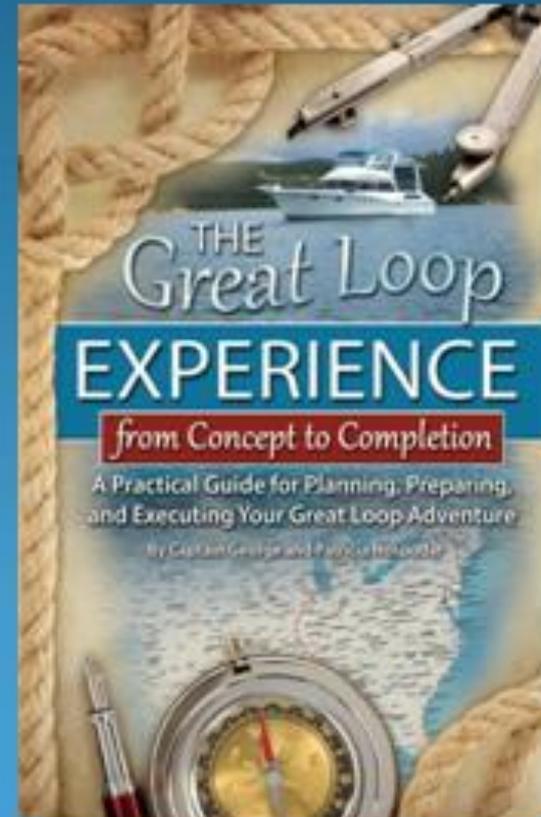
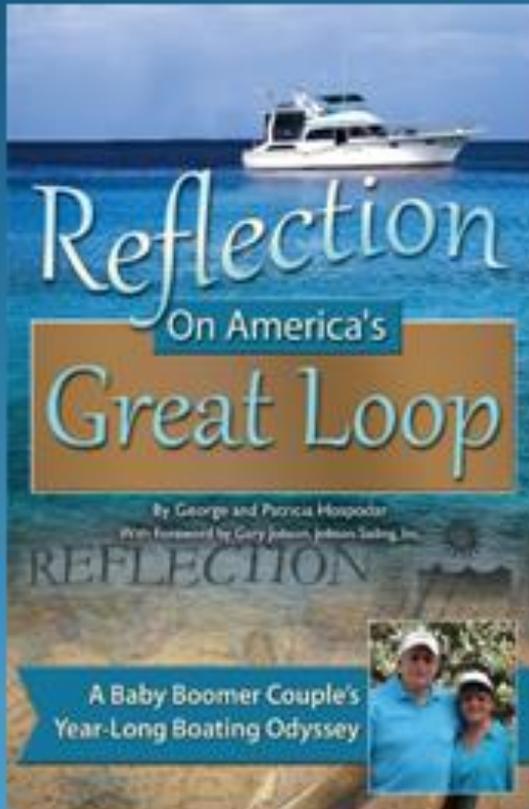
What is the best way to start planning my Loop trip?

America's Great Loop Cruisers Association

[www.AGLCA.org](http://www.AGLCA.org)

# Looper Basics

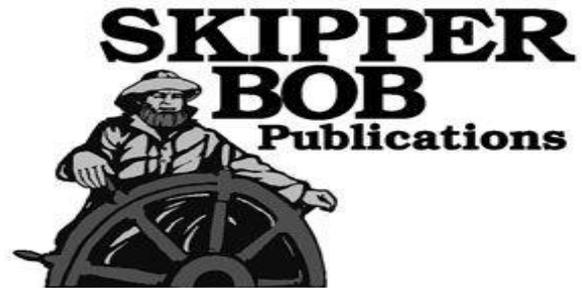
Questions?



# Looper Basics

\$19

## The Great Circle Route



Cruising the Great Circle Route: Up the East Coast, across the Erie Canal to the Great Lakes, the Trent-Severn and Georgian Bay, down the Mississippi & Tennessee Rivers to the Tenn-Tom Waterway and the Gulf Coast, and across the Gulf Coast to Florida. What charts and cruising guides you need. How to schedule the trip, what to expect and when and where to go. Everything you need to plan this exciting voyage.



# Looper Basics

Waterways Guide

# Looper Basics



chart, *n*: a  
nautical map  
that shows you  
what you just hit

# That will buff out



# Navi-guessing



# Looper Basics

What route should I take?