

The SLOOP

(A Tale of Two Loops)

By Bob Newbert
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We're loopy again. We got "slooped."

Like our Mini Loop, we completed a circumnavigation that is 1% the size of America's Great Loop. But where the Mini Loop went North of Hilton Head, our newest loop went South.

It's The SLOOP (Southern Mini Loop).



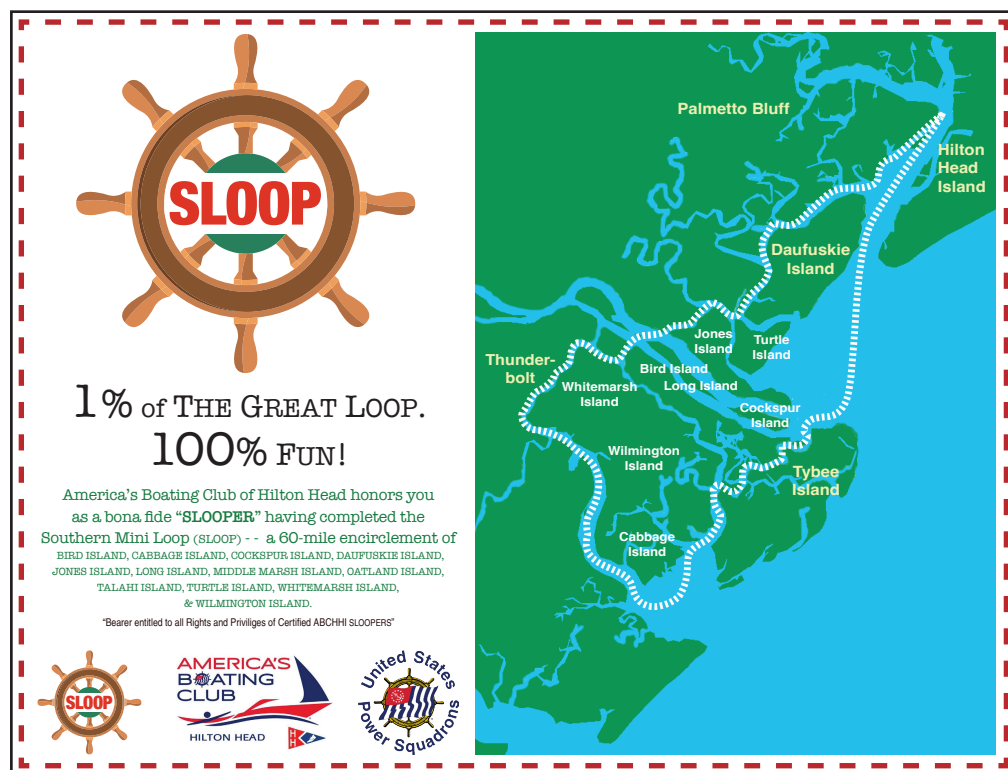
The parallels between both loops are striking.

- Each 60 mi.
- Both celebrate "crossing our wake" after an epic journey whereupon we are known as "Loopers" for the Mini Loop and "SLOOPERS" for the SLOOP.
- The Mini Loop stopped at the private retreat of a wealthy family (40 miles of waterfront and 9 islands) while the SLOOP visited the retreat of another wealthy "family" – the Chicago mafia.
- Similarly, The SLOOP highlighted "made men" in the Cosa Nostra, while the Mini Loop highlighted an ultra-exclusive men's club with 12 members who inherit their membership through the English law of Primogeniture (membership passing to the oldest male heir).

- E.F. Hutton's plantation charmed us on the Mini Loop and Sam Giancana's home-away-from home on the SLOOP. Hutton was CEO of a major, national brokerage and Giancana boss of another large organization, the Chicago mob.
- We learned about the Middle Passage on the SLOOP (25% mortality); and the Yemassee Indian War on the Mini Loop (25% mortality as well).
- The White Witch Doctor, Dr. Bug, Dr. Snake and Dr. Crow were celebrated healers of the Mini LOOP while the SLOOP brought us to a "lazaretto" isolating dying people wracked with disease.
- Lastly, The SLOOP took us by a "lost" nuclear bomb and the Mini Loop brought us to the last known location of a Civil War gunship...whose canons were recovered...unlike the unrecovered bomb aboard a damaged B-47... which landed safely...unlike the gunship which disappeared and is still lost.

Oh, one other similarity – a big one. Like the Mini Loop, the SLOOP inducted ABCHH cruisers into an Honor Society with a special Award certificate recognizing their notable achievement.

Two loops. Polar opposites in direction, but similar in back stories. Each a memorable ABCHH cruise, and the perfect way to get looped.



The SLOOP Cruisers Association

2026 Honor Roll

ABCHH Certified “SLOOPERS”

Martin Bott**	John Fitzgerald	Debbie Plonski
Patrick Bowen**	Rick Ford**	Marilyn Sobwick**
Chris Brigham	Jim Galan**	Julie Traylor
Glenn Crews	Stefan Gantenbein**	Noel Wendt**
Rich Delcore	Jim Iannacchino**	Dave Winnett**
Linda Delcore	Karen Neely	Kim Winnett**
James Dickie	Bob Newbert**	Debby Zion
Ann Fitzgerald	Bryan Plonski	Steve Zion

****Dual honorees: Veterans of both the Mini Loop and The SLOOP**



MARILYN SOBWICK -- ABCHH member, Mini Looper, SLOOPER and Graphic Designer of our “loop” logos & award certificates. “Thank you,” Marilyn! (By the way, nice touch having your outfit coordinate with your certificates 😊).



ABCHH's FINEST – Certified “Mini Loopers” and “SLOOPERS” (L to R): Jim Galan, Bob Newbert, Kim Winnett, Jim Iannacchino, Dave Winnett, Marilyn Sobwick, Stefan Gantenbein, Rick Ford, Noel Wendt and Martin Bott.



NEWLY MINTED “SLOOPERS”



JOHN & ANN FITZGERALD (white shirts) welcome new ABCHH members Steve & Debby Zion.



SLOOPERS planning their jump to the Big Leagues i.e. America's Great Loop are (L to R): Rick Ford, Glenn Crews, James Dickie, Bryan & Debbie Plonski, and Julie Traylor.



VIP TABLES --2x Honorees for the Mini Loop & SLOOP are Jim Iannicchino (top right) and (bottom) Jim Galan, Kim Winnett and Dave Winnett. Jeff Martin, (blue shirt, top photo) hopes for autographs from these ABCHH celebrities.



FRESH SEAFOOD at Bubba Gumbo's



THUMBS UP to the SLOOP from Rich & Linda Delcore and their guests Lisa & Kevin Barton



CROSSING OUR WAKE celebration aboard my boat as we "close the loop" on The SLOOP.

Photo Credits: Julia Dailey, Rich Delcore, Kim Winnett, Bob Newbert and Mark Slavin.