

Mini Loop

By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN

The Great Loop is BIG! It is a 6,000 mi. circumnavigation of the Eastern US and Canada. Few complete the voyage in a year. For many, it is a three to five year odyssey navigating the Atlantic Coast, Hudson River, Erie Canal (or St Lawrence Seaway, Canada), Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Illinois River, Mississippi River, Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, and back to their starting point on the Atlantic coast whereupon they will have “crossed their wake” and completed the loop.



Many mariners aspire to the Great Loop, but few finish it. Those who do make it all the way, fly the golden burgee of “America’s Great Loop Cruisers Association” while those in the midst of their historic voyage, fly a white AGLCA burgee. In both cases, they are proud to call themselves “Loopers.”



Looking to make history, I “miniaturized” the Great Loop to a one-day, 60-mile circumnavigation of Port Royal Island. It is known worldwide (or at least to everyone reading this) as the **MINI LOOP**.

At 60-miles, the Mini Loop is only 1% the size of the Great Loop, but it is 100% fun! ABCHH Loopers visited a plantation with 29 miles of waterfront and 9 islands. We stopped at another plantation that E.F. Hutton gave to a friend as a “Thank You” for introducing his wife to “proper” New York society. Along the way, we passed the site of a US Department of Defense TOP SECRET operation. Not to mention the spot where a White Witch Doctor recovered canon from a Union gun boat sunk by Confederates in the Civil War, using prisoners he sprang out of the Beaufort County jail. By the way, the White Witch Doctor, with all his potions and incantations, surely had magic; but not enough to find the sunken gunship. It’s out there still.

“Magic” electrified the air, however, when ABCHH members completed the Mini Loop and received their Mini Loop Award Certificates – an honor to be proudly displayed alongside MBAs, PhDs, law degrees, medical degrees, and other recognition of great achievement.



ABCHH Loopers received their certificates in a lunchtime ceremony at Marker 244 in Port Royal, SC. The presentation was somewhat premature as we had not yet crossed our wake back at our starting point on Skull Creek. Still, the Mini Loop operates on the Honor System, so MLCA officers (Mini Loop Cruisers Association) voted to distribute the certificates anyway trusting that our Loopers would indeed return to Skull Creek...thus “closing the loop.” 😊

MINI LOOP CRUISERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Honor Roll

Certified “Loopers”

Libby Atkins	Jim Galan	Irene Lavigne	Barb Sommers
Richard Atkins	Stefan Gantenbein	Mike Maglich	Kathy Sturges
Linda Bange	Cristina Giroux	Kris McBride	Rick Sturges
Ed Berry	Diana Hooker	Dave Medvedeff	Joe Tucker
Lorraine Berry	John Hooker	Bob Newbert	Susan Tucker
Martin Bott	Kevin Hunter	Shannon Ramos	Noel Wendt
Nancy Ford	Jim Iannacchino	Tee Ramos	Dave Winnett
Rick Ford	Matt Kovalcik	Marilyn Sobwick	Kim Winnett



MINI LOOP PRODUCTION TEAM Bob Newbert, creator of the Mini Loop and its award program,
and Marilyn Sobwick, graphic designer for the Mini Loop award certificate.



***EASTERN DIVISION of the MINI LOOP CRUISERS ASSOCIATION (MLCA)
proudly displaying their Looper certification.***



MLCA-WEST showing off their historic achievement.



KATHY & RICK STURGES (foreground) celebrate their Mini Loop milestone with friends Casey & Linda Hodnett.



NEWLY CERTIFIED LOOPERS (L to R): Joe Tucker, Susan Tucker, Nancy Ford, Rick Ford, Linda Bange and Jim Iannacchino.



CELEBRATING THE "LOOP" are (L to R): Stefan Gantenbein, Curt Brickman, Pat & Lori Bowen, Marilyn Sobwick and Martin Bott.



JOHN & DIANA HOOKER (center) with fellow Loopers Mike & Carrie Maglich (left) and Maureen & Jim Arconti



COMMANDER DAVE MEDVEDEFF (center) and D26 COMMANDER BARB SOMMERS (white shirt & hat) certify themselves– and their tablemates– as official ABCHH MINI LOOPERS. The newly anointed Loopers (starting at Commander Sommers' left) are: Shannon Ramos, Tee Ramos, Kevin Hunter, Cristina Giroux, Richard & Libby Atkins, and Sherry Howell.



GETTING LOOPY AFTER THE LOOP (L TO R): Dave Weatherwax, Ed Berry, Lorraine Berry, Charles Gray, Jennifer Erickson, and Kris McBride.



KIM WINNETT is all smiles after her completing her historic loop along with ABCHH guests Jeff & Stephanie Schreider, and ABCHH Loopers Jim Galan, Noel Wendt and Dave Winnett.