

Scenes - From - "The - Great - Loop"

by Pete Bardunias,
President/CEO, the
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One of the most awesome things about being a boater in upstate New York is the odd fact that, as the waters get more confined, your chances of running into people from all over the country and even the world get infinitely greater. There is one location that every single cruiser on America's Great Loop has to pass – the Waterford waterfront and the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center. Its fun to visit the waterfront and read the nameplates on the transoms of these great vessels, or even meet the people – as we all know boating is a great community of friendly, interesting people who love to share stories of their cruising adventures!



A large sportfisherman passes the docks at the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center shortly after the canal opened for the 2017 season.



Many boats line the dock in Waterford, from all parts of the US, Canada and the Caribbean.



The author holds the AGLCA flag along with Mary Stalker of the Waterford Harbor Farmers' Market and "Sal the Mule" – boats flying this pennant signify that they are traveling on all or part of this epic cruise that encompasses 1/3 of the USA and parts of Canada.



Is boating ever "Stress Free"? This vessel from Ontario is surely a great way to give it a try, as it prepares to enter Erie Canal Lock 2 in the background for the journey across New York State.

The Chamber of Southern Saratoga County is a sponsor of America's Great Loop (www.aglca.com). For more information on waterside attractions in upstate New York, call (518) 371-3763, visit www.southernSaratoga.org or stop by the Southern Saratoga Information Center (at the Exit 9 Rest Area on I-87), the combined Chamber/WCBA office at 43 Broad Street, or the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center.

Some very big boats traverse the canal, such as Josephine, up from Stuart FL, which needed some modifications to be able to pass under the bridges on New York State's marine interstate highway.



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