



**LakeErieWX**

*Marine Weather Education and Forecasting Resources*

## GLCC Weather Savvy Mariner Series

For Both Power Boaters & Sailors

**When:** February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 28, 2017

**Time:** 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm

**Where:** Online at [GLCCSchool.com](http://GLCCSchool.com)

**Cost:** \$60.00

### Webinar One: Marine Weather Basics

**A Solid Foundation** – Becoming a weather savvy mariner requires a familiarity with a few basic physical and meteorological principles. This section will build a foundation for the remainder of the webinar series.

**Translating Surface Weather Maps** -- Weather maps contain a confusing array of labels, timekeeping systems, symbols, and other meteorological shorthand. This section will improve your map interpretation skills using historical weather charts.

### Webinar Two: Forces Controlling The Wind / Using Doppler Weather Radar

**The Invisible Forces Controlling the Wind** – This section will investigate the atmospheric forces that control the wind, including large-scale dynamics and small-scale features such as lake and land breezes. The wide range of wind forecasting resources on the Internet will also be reviewed.

**Doppler Weather Radar** -- Doppler weather radar has a lot to offer the weather-savvy mariner. This section will introduce the common types of radar imagery and provide instruction in their interpretation and use. You'll learn how weather radar works (along with a few of its quirks) and how it can be used to monitor the development, intensity and speed of approaching thunderstorms.

### Webinar Three: Weather Makers: Forecasting High & Low Pressure Systems

**High & Low Pressure Systems** -- The wind and weather conditions that you encounter during your outings on the Great Lakes are governed by the passage of low and high pressure systems. We'll examine the life-

cycle and structure of a low pressure system, including cold fronts, warm fronts and stationary boundaries. You will also learn what type of weather to expect with the passage of a low pressure system.

#### **Webinar Four: Thunderstorm Primer / Creating Your Own Marine Forecast**

**Thunderstorms** -- Thunderstorms can quickly ruin an outing. This section will cover the types of thunderstorms and the dynamics that lead to their formation. Learn to use readily available Internet forecasting resources to dramatically reduce your chances of a hair-raising encounter. Thunderstorms should not be a surprise.

**A Daily Forecast Routine** – This section will introduce a daily forecast routing using a variety of readily available on-line forecasting resources.

#### **Instructor Biography**



Mark Thornton has been sailing on Lake Erie for more than 20 years and currently owns *Osprey*, a C&C 35. His interest in weather forecasting grew from his experiences cruising and racing on the lake. Mark is a 2006 graduate of the Penn State University *Certificate of Achievement in Weather Forecasting*, a two-year program that develops skills in general, tropical, and severe weather forecasting.

He is the president of LakeErieWX LLC, a company dedicated to providing marine weather education and forecasting resources for recreational boaters ([www.lakeeriewx.com](http://www.lakeeriewx.com)). He served as race meteorologist for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Bell's Beer Bayview Race to Mackinac, and is the past president of the Cleveland chapter of the American Meteorological Society. Mark is employed as the Vice-President of Administration for the law firm of Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg, and as a Teaching Assistant in the *Certificate of Achievement in Weather Forecasting Program* at Penn State University. He can be reached by email at [Mark@LakeErieWX.com](mailto:Mark@LakeErieWX.com).