

C&C27M3 (1976) Sesiya sails 1200km singlehanded from Parry Sound to Charlevoix and back in 12 days. Subtitle: It's a wonderful world.

These are Bill's notes for the latest 16-minute interim version (<http://youtu.be/BBINvQxqbjQ>) of the video. It has a better selection of slides and clips (but the narration is still too skimpy, and I would like to add intro titles).

-starts

Everything here is brief: very briefly, this brief 14-minute digital memoire covers a rather brief single-handed 1200 km cruise, during the first fortnight of July 2013, in a 1976 C&C27M3 sailboat Sesiya from Parry Sound in Georgian Bay, Ontario, to Charlevoix on Lake Michigan in the USA, the purpose of which was to spend a brief 3 days at the GLCC annual rendezvous. On Wikipedia you will find *The Great Loop*¹; this cruise lies at the Northern keystone of that loop. In my video, such as it is, we first have still images with narration, and then second, video clips stitched together with audio background, ending with the landfall at Alexander Inlet (part of the Bayfield Inlet area), where Lyn and I keep a summer place.

Weather was generally mixed, more often hot and light winds, so most of the time was spent motor-sailing, and fighting blood-sucking flying insects. Sesiya (28ft loa, 5ft draft, 9ft beam, 12,000 lbs. displacement) has a blade keel and tall rig, so is a tender, relatively fast 37y old boat. Close to 1000 of these boats were built, 642 before Sesiya, and active class associations still exist. For the trip, each direction required 6 days, in round numbers, averaging (say) 10h (range 5 to 12h) at 10km/h, with early starts, typically 06h00. Ports called in at on both legs were: Parry Sound, Bayfield Inlet, Little Current, Gore Bay (latter two both on Manitoulin Island), Drummond Island, St. Ignace and Charlevoix (all great historic French, English and first-nation names). The durations in hours of the each passage were:

	PS-BI	BI-LC	LC-GB	GB-DI	DI-SI	SI-Ch
Out:	7:25	11:55	5:00	11:30	8:30	9:00
In:	7:30	11:00	4:30	11:00	8:15	9:00

Images in the video include some lighthouses (here the Canadian are generally iconic inexpensive wood frame structures, while US are iconic US Army Corps of Engineers mass concrete), channel markers (buoys), a couple of significant bridges, birds, some shipping, and some clips aboard Sesiya (each scene is listed in the appendix² hereto).

My chosen route had three 2-day legs: 1. Georgian Bay, 2. North Channel, and 3. North L. Huron-L. Michigan. Georgian Bay is renowned for its Canadian Shield scenery (30,000 islands of granite and wind-beaten white pine); North Channel ditto and for its cruising, and Northern Michigan for its water sports. Sailing can be serious, but the country hereabouts is unspoilt and water is everywhere potable. Special areas include Manitoulin Island (world's largest freshwater island); North Channel (25 of the world's top 10 scenic anchorages); the striking bridges at Little Current (100y celebration this trip) and Mackinac (8 km long, 4th longest suspension bridge in the world); and the local other-worldly architecture in Charlevoix. On the waterfront at Charlevoix we were entertained by a local orchestra and by the Petoskey Steel Drum Band. (In

fact the entire 3-day docking was characterised by noise – bridge warning bell, cigarette and power boats in Round Lake, VHF radio announcements in and around the marina, passing road traffic, boat horns requesting after-hours bridge opening, air conditioners nearby, and, perhaps least of all, slapping of bunting and halyards by the constant wind).

Weather forecasts are continuously broadcast on VHF radio by the Canadian Coastguard in MAFOR code. For some unexplained reason on board I played for the first time in 60 y, music from a *Barber, Ball and Bilk* CD, especially *La Mer (Beyond the sea)*, *Bridge over troubled waters*, and, appropriately, *It's a wonderful world*³. So I have accordingly dubbed the video clips, and though it may not work for you, it sure does for me!

Appendices

1. The Great Loop

*The circumnavigation of Eastern North America by water is known as **The Great Loop**. Also referred to as the Great Circle Route, the trip varies from 5,000 miles to 7,500 miles depending on the options used. The boats used range from personal watercraft to 60-foot yachts. Both sailboats and powerboats are used but the most common boats are 34–45 ft [recreational trawlers](#). The main factors that govern the size of the boat are the limited depth (5 feet) in some locations on the loop and the height of one bridge (19 feet) in [Chicago](#). People traveling The Great Loop are known as "loopers." The number of people attempting this voyage is growing with the [baby boomers](#) reaching retirement age. In 2007, more than 150 boat owners notified America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association that they were planning to attempt the loop in the coming season.*

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Loop

2. Scenes

1. The Great Loop. Image: Wikipedia
2. Zoom showing Sesiya's general track (sails westward). Capture: Google Earth
3. Home port: Sound Boat Works in Parry Sound.
4. Handy (small) reference card on the bridge, showing alignment of channel markers. – part of my QueenE routine (*smile-wave-pearls ~ card-chart-channel*).
5. Snug harbour light house, part of approach alignment into Parry Sound.
6. Boiler from a shipwreck (1864 wooden tug *Metamora*), now used as a channel marker on the small craft waterway, in Pointe au Baril.
7. Air photo of small craft route shows the wreck as a small white dot near the centre of the image. Image: Google Earth
8. Barrel erected to denote "safe passage in turbulent waters" at the north end of the small craft route at Pointe au Baril.
9. Sesiya's track into Hangdog channel (south end), to our cottage, then out of Alexander Inlet (all in the Bayfield Inlet area). The east coast of Georgian Bay is known as "the 30,000 islands", and this area is notoriously hazardous for boating, owing to numerous shallow rocks on a prevailing lee shore. Image: Google Earth

10. Sesiya at our cottage dock.
11. The 100y old dull dark black swinging bridge at Little Current, gold plated by the sunset, viewed from the harbour. In the North Channel, where 25 of the world's 10 most scenic anchorages lie, between mainland (northern) Ontario and Manitoulin Island, world's largest freshwater island. The international border tracks around Drummond Island in the west.
12. Family of Canada Geese in the harbour.
13. Sesiya docked at Little Current.
14. Cross-section drawing of a C&C27M2 (Note: Sesiya is a Mark 3, and 28ft, not 25, long). Image: C&C27 Assoc.
15. Companion way, interior.
16. Cabins, interior.
17. First nation commercial fishing boat in the North Channel, feeding ring-billed gulls.
18. Layout around the NW end of Drummond Island, showing Harbor Island, De Tour Village and De Tour Passage, all in the USA.
19. A power boat explodes and burns in the Harbor Island anchorage, taken in 1981. It later drifted down towards our anchored boats. Fire is possibly the biggest risk in boating.
20. Sesiya approaches 8 km long Mackinac Bridge in a thick fog. World's 4th longest suspension bridge.
21. Great lakes ships ("lakers") are numerous in the west end of L. Huron connecting to L. Michigan.
22. Layout around the junction of the 3 Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan and Huron). Charlevoix lies at the red pin, around Round Lake, which links L. Michigan and L. Charlevoix.
23. Ditto, from the air. Charlevoix is on Round Lake at the mouth of L. Charlevoix on L. Michigan. Photo: Wikipedia
24. The bascule bridge at Charlevoix, on the entrance canal. Photo: Niels Jensen
25. The 64 GLCC boats (200 folks) rendezvous at the town marina, showing the band shell, market green, marina office and kids' splash pad. Sesiya is the left most boat, almost invisible, and the club marquee is just out of the picture to the right. Photo: GLCC Newsletter (Lifeline).
26. GLCC burgees denote the interconnected chain of 5 great lakes. Photo: Niels Jensen
27. Splash pad. The town features prominent granite and sandstone structures. Photo: C Mead
28. An Earl Young home. Photo: Niels Jensen
29. Another ditto (photo: W James)
30. Ditto private home landscaping.
31. Unexpected visitors pass by.
32. Our group of GLCC sailor buddies (Georgia and Chuck McFarland, Jim and Linda Williams, Bill and Sandi Matley, and me in front).
33. The venue for the banquet, an old farm renovated into a popular wedding facility.
34. The meal: everyone gets salmon and steak – those ordering either fish or steak get both anyway, and are obliged to send back the other... wasteful perhaps, but evidently saves labour and thinking. Glad there were only two options, or I would have needed a bucket!

35. North-east Lake Michigan, iconic USArmy CoE lighthouse.
36. Mackinac bridge, detail of deck suspended loosely between towers.
37. Ditto: maintenance trolleys.
38. Ditto: better idea of the 8 km bridge linking the Upper Peninsula to lower Michigan.
39. Three folks flying a 'chute pulled by a power boat (St Ignace).
40. Sunrise at St Ignace marina.
41. Double crested cormorants on a channel buoy.
42. De Tour reef light.
43. Classic gaff-rigged hard-chine yawl, with sedate elderly couple, enjoying the breeze. De Tour Village.
44. Sunrise at Drummond Island yacht haven (US Border entry point).
45. Ditto
46. Ditto
47. Ditto, Harbor Island.
48. Ditto, open US commercial fishing boat.
49. Little Current directional buoy indicates current speed and direction.
50. Catamaran crosses my bow on a still, hazy day.
51. Cormorants, Manitoulin Island.
52. Tugboat rendezvous at Little Current to mark the 100y centenary of the swing bridge.
53. Ditto, sail-past.
54. Ditto ("Marion")
55. Ditto (unknown)
56. Ditto ("Pankhurst")
57. Still life below deck: key components. (laptop, smart phone, chart book, logbook, glasses, pencils, flyswatter)
58. Dodging what turned out to be severe thunderstorms over Sudbury.

Music in the following is by Acker Bilk from a CD by Barber, Ball and Bilk. Permission is being sought.

59. Sailing: departing Parry Sound.
60. Sailing: Killbear Park point light.
61. Sailing: departing Parry Sound approaches.
62. Sailing: Snug harbour lighthouse
63. Sailing: crossing Georgian Bay
64. Sailing: Strawberry Island Light house.
65. Sesiya at Little Current
66. Laid-up ships, Drummond Island.
67. De Tour reef light, classic US Army Corps of Engineers design
68. Charlevoix waterfront, local town orchestra.
69. GLCC supper and entertainment in the marquee; as Frank Sinatra sang: "*On State Street, that great street, I just want to say They do things they don't do on Broadway. They have the time, the time of their life. I saw a man, he danced with his wife...*"
70. Sesiya dressed with flags of countries where I personally have sailed, not necessarily in Sesiya (SAfrica foremost, Scotland, Denmark, Australia, USA, Sweden).

71. The Petoskey Steel Drum Band (high school students) performing in the band shell. With live sound.
72. Sailing: sunrise with Canadian Coast Guard radio marine weather forecast (MAFOR) in code. With live sound.
73. Sailing: sails seen from the fore hatch.
74. Sailing: Mackinac bridge again.
75. Mackinac Island ferry with senseless water plume, St Ignace.
76. Sailing: Hydro-chuting (my word), St Ignace.
77. Sailing: sunrise at Drummond Island, still air.
78. Ditto
79. Ditto
80. Sailing: Strawberry Island light house from the North
81. Sailing: dodging those thunderstorms that turned out to be severe
82. Sailing: crossing Georgian Bay, wind and fetch increase, waves build
83. Sailing: landfall at Alexander Inlet
84. Ditto, further upstream. Yes, it really is a wonderful world. Oh yeah.

Further information, for most of the places mentioned here, can be readily googled.

3. Louis Armstrong's lyrics for *It's a wonderful world*

*I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

*I see skies of blue, and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

*The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces, of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, sayin', "How do you do?"
They're really sayin', "I love you"*

*I hear babies cryin', I watch them grow
They'll learn much more, than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

*Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

-ends.

Bill James is a 76-y civil engineer, University Professor Emeritus and president of CHI, a consulting engineering company in Guelph, Ontario, and also a port-captain (member) of GLCC, the Great Lakes Cruising Club.