



Greetings thistle sailors!

I am writing to you on the shortest day of the year from frigid Somers, Montana. The wind chill today is -31 degrees. It is dark, cold, and my power is out. While all of this is mind numbing, no pun intended, when you arrive it will be glorious!

The days will be warm and the sun will shine for more than 15 hours. In Montana this is "go time!" Regatta racing will take place early and likely be complete by early afternoon. So there will be plenty of time to get out and enjoy the area.

The local communities around the lake; Lakeside, Somers, and Bigfork are bustling with activity during the summer! You can find music, farmers markets, shopping, food and more!

Here are some links:

<https://lakesidesomerschamber.org/>

<https://bigfork.org/>

Interested in hiking? Check out the Jewel Basin.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/flathead/recarea/?recid=77671>

Interested in Mountain Biking? Check out Herron Park and Legacy Bike Park.

<https://www.trailforks.com/region/herron-park/>

<https://legacybikepark.com/>

How about river rafting! There are several companies up in West Glacier. This is my personal favorite.

<https://greatnorthernresort.com/glacier-park-rafting/>

Every Thursday evening the Blue Moon Saloon hosts a local rodeo at 7pm. There will likely be other rodeos in the area.

<https://glaciercountryrodeo.com/>

Pre-planning will be important if you want to visit Glacier National Park or Whitefish Mountain Resort. These areas are popular with tourists. Make your reservations early in 2023. Here are some helpful links:

Glacier National Park <https://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/index.htm>

Going to the Sun Road Reservation / Tickets

<https://www.recreation.gov/timed-entry/10087086/ticket/10087087>

The red bus tour is a great way to see the park with family.

<https://www.glacienationalparklodges.com/red-bus-tours>



Whitefish Mountain Resort

<https://skiwhitefish.com/>

WMR has a lot of fun, family activities like zip lining, aerial adventure course, alpine slide, mountain biking and hiking. I highly recommend taking a chair lift or gondola to the top of the ski mountain. The views are breathtaking and lunch at the Summit House is fun. Montana as a whole is extremely accessible however, pre-planning can be important for lodging and activities in touristy areas.



Happy planning and we look forward to seeing you in July!
Ashli Slawter, NFYC Commodore