

**SPORTS ON THE LOOP**  
**Edenton Steamers Baseball**

By Claude Milot

Major league baseball players will soon be reporting to spring training camps throughout Florida, and sailors wintering in the state’s warm climate will be able to take in exhibition baseball games. But as they begin their spring migration up the Intracoastal Waterway, boaters who enjoy the game can still get to see great baseball on the way by stopping in Edenton, home of the Edenton Steamers of the Coastal Plain League.



From 1937 to 1952, with a four-year interruption during WWII, the Coastal Plan League was a Class D minor league. Today’s CPL is a collegiate summer league featuring top-notch college players from across the nation. Now in its 23rd season, the league has 16 teams from Virginia to Georgia playing a 56-game season from May to August. The Edenton Steamers, who joined the league in 1998, play their home games in Edenton’s Hicks Field, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Opened in 1930, Hicks Field, with a seating capacity of 1,500, has the oldest remaining wooden grandstand of its type

in North Carolina.

The CPL is highly regarded by Major League baseball and its scouts. In fact, over 1,500 of its players have been drafted by Major League teams. Its most notable alumni include Justin Verlander, Ryan Zimmerman, Mark Reynolds, Kevin Youkilis, and Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson.

Sailors who love baseball can begin to plan now to take in one or more Edenton Steamers baseball games during the Albemarle Loop’s Spring Festival. Games begin at 7:05 p.m. at Hicks Field, just a short walk up Broad Street from Edenton Harbor. Home games scheduled in May and early June are:

- May 30 vs. Morehead City Marlins
- June 4 vs. Wilmington Sharks
- June 7 vs. Wilson Tobs
- June 9 vs. Martinville Mustangs
- June 12 vs. Peninsula Pilots

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Additional Notes:

### **Local knowledge for approach to Edenton Bay Harbor**

Two large water tanks in the town are the most prominent objects from the sound. Also prominent is a radio tower near the city wharf. A dredged channel leads from deep water in Albemarle Sound to the head of the bay where it separates into dredged reaches leading in northwesterly and northeasterly directions along the town waterfront. The channel is well marked by lights and daybeacons.



The town dock, at the head of the entrance channel, is marked by a light. In 2013, a depth of 8 feet was reported alongside the dock. Available amenities include berths, pump-out station, electricity, water and ice. A fish wharf and an oil wharf are close westward of the city wharf; depths of 10 feet were reported alongside in 1983.