

SEPTEMBER ABOARD THE MANITOU

By Lorenzo Caricchio

We passengers, numbering twenty-two, set sail aboard the Manitou with Captain Dave and his Crew. On the way to Harbor Springs we worked the boat and learned some things, like, the difference between a Halyard and a Sheet, tying knots, and how to coil lines nice and neat.

On the next day, to Charlevoix we beat our way. Tacking back and forth we had time to kill. So Captain Dave organized a Man Overboard drill. We tacked the boat and backed the sail. The Mate and Cook went over the rail and into the Zodiac its' Outboard push'n. At top speed they rescued the cushion, which the Skipper had tossed into the lake to see how long the rescue would take.

The rest of the day we learned what each line was called and what it did when it was hauled. We learned how to swab a deck and polish brass, and that raising the anchor was a pain in the... neck.

In Charlevoix that night we watched the stars and had a good sleep, then left in the morning out past the buoy, we motored half the day to Cats Head Bay, where the anchorage was deep. After a walk in the woods and a swim on the beach the Captain broke anchor under sail while the crew tried to teach us more Nautical stuff. But we passengers were now rough and tough.

So a mock Mutiny drill we did plan, to force the Captain and crew to our will. We charged the QuarterDeck; each man decked out with Pirate earrings and Parrots made of clothespins. The Skipper and Crew met our charge with broad grins but stood their ground at the Taffrail and knocked the wind out of our sail. We went meekly back to our tasks at sea; but now we had developed a Sailing Camaraderie.

Our trip was too short, but long will we remember this glorious sail of September. Aboard the Manitou we had lots of fun. To the Captain and Crew for a job well done there is only thing left we can say - Hip Hip Hooray! - Hip Hip Hooray! - Hip Hip Hooray!