

Dilly Dallying In The Apostle Islands

By Judith Riese

A crew of seven sailors including Captain Dale Broom embarked on a three day sail of the Apostle Islands leaving Washburn Marina on July 19 after a hearty breakfast at the Time Out Cafe (good food and great prices). After motoring for a while, we set sail in light north-east winds. Our initial plan was to sail to Sand Island and kayak in the caves, but the wind picked up and we changed course to Raspberry Island. We anchored out in Raspberry Bay around 3:00 P. M. under sunny skies with a slight breeze.



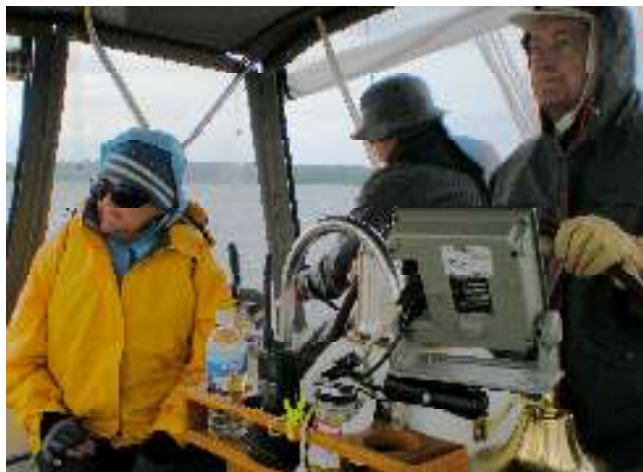
Four sailors, Jenny Adrian, Jackie Carlson, Judith Riese, and Gary Steffens were escorted to the

beach in a motorized dingy by the captain. We hiked a short distance to the Raspberry Island Lighthouse admiring the beautiful wildflowers and lush foliage. Jenny and Gary took the guided lighthouse tour for the paltry sum of \$ 3.00 while the rest of us hiked around taking photos and admiring the view.

The Raspberry Island Lighthouse and the area surrounding it have been completely restored. The beach was at the point of eroding beyond repair. The ranger pointed out that if the work had not been done, the lighthouse would have disappeared within twenty years.

After being escorted back to Dilly Dally in the dingy, Gary and Jackie kayaked a while, each in their own inflatable kayak. Inflatable kayaks are not known for their stability, but the lake was flat. Dale pointed out that the price of the green dingy was right or FREE. However, bear in mind that you are paddling a beer ad.

We debated on whether to grill on Friday or wait until Saturday. That turned out to be a fortuitous choice. Captain Dale fired up the propane grill and grilled steaks, pork chops, and potatoes. Rounding out the meal were green beans and other treats. In keeping with Northern Lights tradition, there were few leftovers.



Saturday morning brought cooler temps, cloudy skies, and northeast winds. Captain Dale asked everyone to don their PFD as the winds were increasing. Virtually everyone was bundled up with layers of clothes including wool hats and socks. Hank Aro was the fashion plate of the crew having donned Judy's ski hat with ear flaps under his hood. We were very thankful that the cockpit had an enclosed bimini, a godsend when it started raining. Our initial goal was to sail to North Twin Island and into the open lake. However, our plan was revised when fog started rolling in north of us. GOOD MOVE, DALE. None of us wanted an encounter with an ore boat in the fog. We set sail for Stockton Island where we planned to anchor at

Presque Isle Bay in a protected anchorage. To reach our anchorage, we needed to clear a point on the east side of Stockton which was partially obscured by fog. This involved tacking and winching numerous times. Gary became adept at the wheel after adjusting his thinking from only using a tiller. We sailed for over seven fantastic hours, reaching maximum hull speed of (I believe) 6.8 or 7.2 knots. *(ed. -she goes faster)* When we finally arrived at the Presque Isle anchorage at around 7:00 P. M. , about 40 boats were already there. The crew was ravenous having skipped lunch. Again, Captain Dale whipped up a hot meal in the galley (chicken and rice) along with other goodies. There were no leftovers.

Sunday morning we awoke to very light winds and some fog. As we motored out of Presque Isle, the fog became thicker. Dale turned on the radar where we spotted two other boats about one mile away, one on the starboard side and one ahead of the bow. Judy took control of the foghorn every few minutes to alert other boats in the vicinity. As we continued motoring towards Washburn, the cameras came out. Mary Mason took numerous shots as did the others. Based on my experience, fog shots are tough.

We arrived at Washburn at around noon, cleaned the boat and took a group photo. We all departed for home wishing we could have stayed longer.

It was a great weekend and a great sailing experience. All of the crew aboard appreciated the efforts of Dale and Lisa in assuring us a safe and pleasant sail.

Unfortunately, Dilly Dally will be in dry dock in 2009 to fine tune the boat for the Caribbean.

But, don't forget, Dale and Lisa still have the S-2.

