



THE KATAHDIN SEXTANT

October 2024

Our mission: To preserve and operate the Katahdin as a “living museum” for the benefit of our community, region, and future generations.

Letter from the Executive Director

The crew is putting the Kate to bed after another eventful and productive season. We were blessed with fantastic weather and 8,861 passengers took advantage of the opportunity to cruise with us. We hosted seven weddings and, with the help of Robin Gardella, organized our first Pirate Cruise. We also increased the frequency of our family-friendly Moose Island cruise, which proved very popular.

MMM has a practice of cross training staff, especially aboard the Katahdin. Each of our captains is also qualified as deck hand and engineer. This gives us flexibility in scheduling and reduces burnout. In spite of this, we had more of a challenge than usual keeping fully staffed. We were fortunate to have some late-season additions to the crew, including Tanya who came to us from Jamaica, and VA who is retired from the Coast Guard, among other qualifications.

The Board of Directors has embarked on a strategic

planning effort, which will last through the beginning of next year. We have engaged Shoebox Collaborations to facilitate the process, which will involve various stakeholders in addition to our board and staff. When the effort is completed, we will have a plan that identifies the most critical issues of focus for the next three to five years.

MMM now has a grant agreement with the US Department of the Interior for the \$500,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending awarded us through the efforts of Senators Susan Collins and Angus King. We have just issued a request for proposals for restoration of the “Green Rail” (caprail). We engaged a marine surveyor to advise us in developing the scope of work. The surveyor pointed out that by adding the starboard deck replacement, which was originally to have been completed in a separate phase, we can save almost \$200,000 off the total cost of our Keep Kate Cruising project. We

anticipate that this combined phase of the overall project will take two years to complete, putting us on schedule for the final haulout phase by the fall of 2027.

Speaking of Keep Kate Cruising, we are less than \$5,000 shy of a total \$1.6 million raised toward our \$2 million goal! We are eager to add another section to our fundraising sign very soon. This summer’s Whistleblowers Club and 110 Gifts of \$110 mini-campaigns were very successful—look for similar efforts throughout the winter and next season.

One of MMM’s greatest assets is our cadre of volunteers, who devote hours to assisting us at our ticket office, on our board and with our fundraising committee, not to mention our beautiful gardens. Without them we would be sunk and we are grateful to every person who has given their time to make the museum successful.

Liz McKeil, Executive Director



Photo by Casuarina Arute/ 222 Media

Inside this issue:

KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN ENTERS COMMUNITY PHASE	2-3
KATE’S 110TH BIRTHDAY	3
THE MANY ISLANDS OF MOOSEHEAD LAKE	4-5
VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF AN ORGANIZATION	6
ANOTHER STEAMBOAT RACE	7
THE 2024 CRUISING SEASON IN REVIEW	8-9
KATE’S PIRATE CRUISE	10
SUPER-DECKHAND RAY GIROUX	11



Moosehead Marine Museum

Keep Kate Cruising Campaign Continues Community Phase!

KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

LIZ McKEIL, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER AUCOIN

KEYTH CARTER

SALLY FARRAND

BOB FREDERICK

JOAN HAWKES

JOHN MORRELL

BETSY ROCKWELL

ALICIA STONE

LEA WATT

PETE WHITIN

ROGERS WOOLSTON

STEPHANIE BOONE

BOB GIROUX

CANDACE MORRELL

BETHANY BEVERLY

LISA WAHLSTROM,
CAMPAIGN CONSULTANT

The *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign* kicked off its Community Phase on May 26 with an open house. Donors and community members were invited to learn more about the campaign, take tours of the boat and hear an original song, “Kate” by Travis Wallace. The event culminated with the unveiling of our Katahdin fundraising sign, designed by Betsy Rockwell, built by Bob Frederick and Waldo Klein and painted by Debi Baker.

This summer we implemented several “mini-campaigns,” each designed to raise several thousand dollars toward our goal. Seven donors joined the Whistleblowers Club, giving \$1,000 and earning a chance to blow the whistle aboard the Kate along with a Whistleblowers Club T-shirt.

In anticipation of Kate’s 110th birthday, we challenged the community to raise 110 gifts of \$110. To date we have raised over \$4,500 from this push.

A small group of intrepid volunteers traveled to General Dynamics/Bath Iron Works in the early morning hours of August 16 to take a gate collection from employees as they arrived at work for the 7am shift. It was fun meeting people and hearing their stories of connection with the Katahdin, either personally or through family connections.

On August 24, we celebrated Kate’s 110th birthday with a special Kineo cruise that featured volunteers dressed in character, music from Greenville alums Christine Poulson, Bob Giroux and Marty Pelletier, an encore presentation

of Travis Wallace’s song and a stunning Katahdin cake made by Diane Bartley. Passengers were surprised and thrilled by the performances.

While the Kate was on her birthday cruise, a carnival themed fundraiser took place shoreside. A small committee led by Stephanie Boone and Jill Sisco conducted kids’ games and activities including a fishing booth, a balloon pop game, face painting and a cake walk. We owe a big thank you to the volunteers who participated in this day and to the many local businesses who sponsored activities.

If you wish to donate to the *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign*, go to katahdincruises.com/preserve-the-kate; request additional information from the Museum by calling 207-695-2716; email Liz McKeil, Executive Director at lmckeil@mmmk8.org; speak to a member of the campaign committee; or scan the QR code here.



Photo by Casuarina Arute/222 Media





THE WHISTLEBLOWERS' CLUB

MEMBERS OF THE WHISTEBLOWERS' CLUB DONATE \$1000 TO THE KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN AND GET TO BLOW KATE'S WHISTLE AND RECEIVE A WHISTLEBLOWERS' CLUB T-SHIRT!

PHASE TWO OF RESTORATION WAS COMPLETED IN SPRING 2024, JUST IN TIME FOR OUR 2024 CRUISING SEASON! KATE NOW SPORTS BRAND NEW PORT SIDE DECKS AND AFT DECKS, WHICH WERE COMPLETED IN SPRING 2023. PHOTOS BY CASUARINA ARUTE/222 MEDIA.

Kate Celebrates Her 110th Birthday!

from 1914 to 2024...



ON AUGUST 24, 2024, WE CELEBRATED THE KATAHDIN'S 110TH BIRTHDAY! FESTIVITIES INCLUDED A SPECIAL KINEO CRUISE WITH FRIENDS OF THE KATE DRESSED IN EARLY 1900S PERIOD COSUTME AND A 110TH BIRTHDAY FUNdraiser, COMPLETE WITH CARNIVAL GAMES, FACE PAINTING, AND PRIZES! THANK YOU TO OUR KEEP KATE CRUISING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE. PHOTOS BY CASURAINA ARUTE/222 MEDIA.

Moosehead Marine Museum

The Many Islands of Moosehead Lake

by Ben Beverly

I've had a real interest in islands for over half of my life. It started back when I was in college, while working on one of the historic windjammers that operated on the coast of Maine. I encountered beautiful, rugged places out on the ocean, isolated from the rest of Maine, yet somehow still very much a part of it. Then, not much more than a year after moving to the Moosehead Region, I landed a summer job at the Moosehead Marine Museum. It was the summer of 2018. Already a history buff, it was exciting to learn local history and geography so that I could share it with visitors through museum tours.

Ardean Thornton, one of MMM's long-standing employees, informed me dur-

ing training that Moosehead Lake had 365 islands. I thought it interesting that it should just so happen that the number of islands coincided with the number of days in a year. "What were the odds?" I wondered. "Where did that information come from?" I queried. Ardean told me it was the number that had been passed down orally to her. Part of my love of history is the process of hunting down the facts—of determining the certainty of something. Why not pull out a map and settle the question once and for all? Wasn't it really quite simple? Unfortunately, it was not, I soon discovered. In 2022, I finally got around to doing an official count. I decided to trust the accuracy of

Google Maps. After losing my spot and having to start counting again several times, I found 263 islands in our lake.

That same summer, I encountered some fascinating material written in the 1950s about the islands of Moosehead Lake. Strangely enough, once again, 365 was the official count. Again, no source was cited to verify this. It was also hypothesized that there may have been as many as 500 islands in the lake before the dams on the west side were constructed. Obviously, the dams helped raise the lake level, thus putting a good number under the water.

As I began to work away during the summer of 2022 to research and expand the narration for the up-

coming Head of the Lake cruise, I was intrigued by a lone island that sits in the middle of the North Bay. Just one—appropriately named "Center Island." Having never traversed the North Bay before, I was eager to encounter this wild, hard-to-reach place. When I finally laid eyes on it from my perch in the *Katahdin's* wheelhouse, I was a bit disappointed. It was just an outcropping of barren rocks no more than 40 yards long and probably half that distance wide.

But fortunately for us lovers of history and geography, not all of Moosehead's islands were so simply named. I have discovered that there are quite a few truly unique island names. Here are some of the most intriguing...



Aerial view postcard of Moosehead Lake & the West Cove in the early 1900s.



Aerial View postcard of Moosehead Lake & the East Cove in 1992.

There is **“Dr. Wiggers Weather Island.”** (Could he have been a contemporary of the famous Doc Pritham? Probably not, as to my knowledge, even Doc Pritham didn’t get an island named after him. But one has to wonder who the fellow was.)

There is **“Whiskey Island,”** and it seems its name is associated with the contraband rumored to have been smuggled down from Canada during the Prohibition era of the 1920s. It seems the island was a point of transfer in one way.

The two **“Hogback Islands”** were once a single island. As one of our local legends told me, the center of the island was dug out to provide earthen fill for the construction of one of dams on the west side of the lake. So much earth

was excavated, in fact, that water filled in the site, effectively dividing the island in two.

“Stop the Music Island” was given as a prize by a radio station. Callers had to identify a song after hearing only a piece of it played on the radio. The winner earned the island. I’m sure we’ve all heard competitions like that on modern radio stations—I know I have. I’ve even recognized the song on more than occasion. Too bad they’re not still giving out free islands nowadays—I might have won one.

“O.W.A.A. Island” was given out as another prize—this one by the Outdoor Writers of America Association. Again, I’m bummed that I missed out—I’m quite sure I could have

written a killer essay with a free island on the line.

“Dollar Island” also earned its name over its role as a prize—supposedly it swapped hands in a poker game and thus earned the name. It sits just below Sugar Island and appears to be about 50 yards wide and 50 yards long. Hopefully the winner of the island was happy with the payment.

Another island with a unique name is **“Treasure Island.”** One has to wonder the rationale for choosing such a name, as I’ve yet to encounter any legend of buried treasure there.

Perhaps the strangest island name, in my opinion, is **“Bowler and Abbott Ladd’s No. 48 Island.”**

Where the name came from, or what happened to the first 47 islands, is anybody’s guess. If anyone happens to know, I certainly would love to hear it.

When all is said and done, Moosehead Lake’s history is rich and full of fascinating tales. The islands of the lake are just one topic adding to the flavor of what we already know to be true. We’ve got some great stories here, and it just so happens that most of them happen to be true!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM! THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP, INCLUDING OUTRIGHT GIFTS OF CASH OR DONATIONS THAT CAN BE CONVERTED TO CASH AND PLANNED GIFTS SUCH AS A BEQUEST THAT WILL SUPPORT THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MUSEUM.

IF YOU ARE 70 ½ OR OLDER, YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT – A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD) - TO THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM BY DIRECTING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS (UP TO \$100,000 PER YEAR) FROM A TRADITIONAL OR ROTH IRA. SUCH A DONATION CAN REDUCE YOUR TAXABLE INCOME WHILE BENEFITTING THE MUSEUM. YOU MUST TELL YOUR IRA ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSFER YOUR GIFT DIRECTLY TO THE MUSEUM FROM YOUR TRADITIONAL OR ROTH IRA ACCOUNT.

OR

GO TO KATAHDINCRUISES.COM/PRESERVE-THE-KATE TO MAKE A *KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN* GIFT SECURELY ONLINE; REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM BY CALLING 207-695-2716 OR EMAIL LIZ MCKEIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT LMCKEIL@MMM8.ORG; SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE; OR SCAN THE QR CODE HERE.



Moosehead Marine Museum

VOLUNTEER STATS*

- 60.7 MILLION ADULTS PER YEAR NATIONALLY
- 25% OF WOMEN & 21% OF MEN VOLUNTEER
- 16-17 YEAR OLDS HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF VOLUNTEERING
- WOMEN VOLUNTEER ON AVERAGE 2 HOURS PER DAY AND MEN VOLUNTEER AROUND 2.5 HOURS PER DAY
- VOLUNTEERISM FELL DURING THE PANDEMIC BUT IS REBOUNDED

*Kristine Ensor via Donorbox.org

Volunteers Are the Heart of an Organization

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the State of Maine has the fourth highest rate of volunteerism in the country. Moosehead Marine Museum has always been blessed with a strong contingent of people who give of their time and energy to advance our mission. Our Board of Directors devote dozens of hours each year attending meetings and events.

Our fundraising committee has been active since 2022, meeting every two

to three weeks, organizing events, sending out mailings and meeting with individuals to secure approximately \$1.6 million in gifts and pledges toward our goal of \$2 million.

The Moosehead Lake Yacht Club recruits a large group of volunteers each year who visit the museum every Friday to tend to our gardens.

This year, Jill Sisco and Anne Holden joined us weekly to assist in the ticket office, museum and aboard the Kate. And on the Kate,

Ginger Ouelette volunteered as deck hand aboard evening cruises, easing our staffing shortage significantly. Without them all, we really would have been in a bind.

If you encounter any of these people while you are out and about, we hope you will join us in thanking them for their devotion to the museum and the Kate and for giving generously of their time to ensure that our guests have a great experience. They truly are the heart of this organization.



Volunteer Jill Sisco and Deck Hand Greg Sisco all decked out for the Pirate Cruise.



Volunteer Anne Holden & Galley Assistant Tanya Reid-Lindo at Kate's 110th Birthday Party.



Volunteer Charlie Carter takes a short break with crew member Ray Giroux.

IN LOVING MEMORY...

IN 2024, WE REMEMBER NANCY WATLER & BILL HUNTER, SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE KATAHDIN.

Another Steamboat Race—September 22, 1900

“There was another steamboat race Tuesday. The *Rebecca* and the *Katahdin* left Greenville at about the same time. The smaller boat was on its regular trip and the bigger one had on board a big load of excursionists from down the river. The *Katahdin* got off first and the *Rebecca* followed post haste. The result is in doubt, both sides claiming a victory.

‘We started out,’ says Capt. Capen of the *Rebecca*, ‘some distance behind the *Katahdin* and we started in to overhaul her, with 20 miles of lake before us. I am under the personal impression that we gave the big boat about the hardest rub she ever had, and that hereafter, Capt. Robinson better have more

respect for the “kindergarten class,” as he terms the smaller boats on the lake. But for trouble with our engine we would have gone past a-flying. The valves of the vacuum pump was out of order and we were only able to get 15 inches of vacuum where we usually have 25. This made us lose steam when we pushed the boat at full speed. We lost 30 pounds of steam every time we did, which made us slow up after a certain distance; and we could only hold the *Katahdin* even until we were able to get the steam back. But for that the *Katahdin* would have had something to think about. It was very funny to see the *Katahdin* crew trimming the ship by shifting the crowd

about so that they could get the utmost speed.’

Capt. Robinson and Engineer John Coombs of the *Katahdin*, deny that there was a race. ‘We had the excursionists and the Dover band on board,’ says Engineer Coombs, ‘and I thought the *Rebecca* wanted to keep abreast of us so that they could hear the music. We delayed our trip to let them do this. Once or twice when it looked as if the *Rebecca* was trying to get ahead, I’d just let her out for a little ways to show them that they weren’t in our class. It’s funny to see the little boats of the lake chasing after the *Katahdin* and expecting her to slow up and delay the trip so

that it can be called a ‘race.’

‘Money talks, and we’ve got it to any amount that says the *Katahdin* can steam clear around any of the smaller steamboats on the lake. If they really think they can beat us and for a moment, I don’t believe they think they can, why the only thing to do is to put up or shut up.

‘Nothing would please us better than to have this question settled for all time. It’s very annoying to have the boats laying for us all the way up the lake, and it’s very funny to see their desperate attempts to catch up.’”

-originally printed in the 1982 MMM Newsletter



The *Katahdin I* in the early 1900s. Built in 1896, burned on May 13, 1913, she was 111' long and 28' at the beam.



The *Rebecca* (left) and the *Fairy of the Lake* (right) in 1886. The *Rebecca* was built in 1881 and owned by John H. Eveleth.

Moosehead Marine Museum

The 2024 Cruising Season in Review



Anne Holden and Judi Rowell are our first members of the Whistleblowers' Club! Members who donate \$1000 to the Keep Kate Cruising Campaign get to blow Kate's whistle and receive a Whistleblowers' Club T-shirt!



Crew members Tom Theriault and Ashley Bussell rescue "Oscar" during the "man overboard drill" at our June Shakedown cruise.



Captains Randy Gartley and Matt Kane ready the anchor during a Shakedown cruise drill.



Captain Rocky Rockwell teaching young passengers aboard the Kate. Thank you to passenger Will H. for submitting this photo.

Thank you for a great cruising season!



A guest "Captain" aboard the Kate! Passengers are invited to visit the wheelhouse mid-cruise and take a turn piloting the *Katahdin*. Photo by Casuarina Arute/222 Media.



Thank you to passenger William S. for submitting this photo of passengers disembarking the *Kate*!



MMM Board Members, friends and crew celebrate aboard the *Kate* at her 110th birthday party!



Longtime MMM friends and donors Jock Moore & Cathy Sweetser enjoy a fall wedding aboard the *Katahdin*.

Moosehead Marine Museum

The Katahdin's First-Ever Pirate Cruise



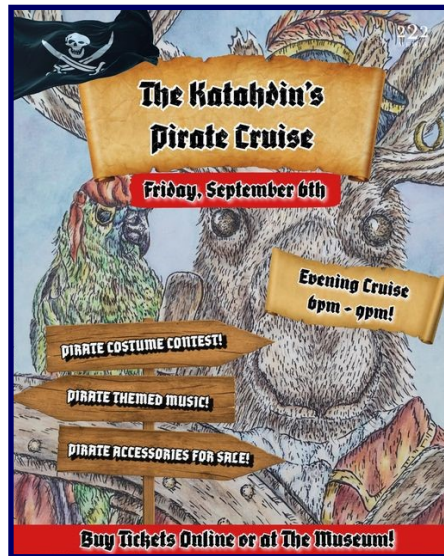
Operations Manager Jennifer Aucoin
& Captain Randy Gartley



Executive Director Liz McKeil



Engineer Tom Theriault &
Volunteer Jill Sisco



Captain Randy Gartley &
Volunteer Ginger Ouelette

Super-Deck Hand Ray Giroux

“Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today for one of the most scenic cruises on Moosehead Lake. And you’ve picked a fine day to do it!”

If you’ve cruised on the Steamboat *Katahdin* sometime within the past ten years, chances are that you’ve heard “Super-Deck Hand” Ray Giroux begin his life jacket demonstration with this introduction. And chances are that you and your fellow passengers cheered, clapped, or smiled as you boarded the boat. Ray says that he has always enjoyed the life jacket demonstration because he can help loosen up passengers before the cruise and make them smile. As all of us crew members and friends of the *Katahdin* can attest, Ray Giroux has been making people smile for a long time.

Over a decade and a half ago, Ray returned to the Moosehead Lake region as a recent retiree, staying at his family camp and working on docks and boats at a local marina. A long-time owner and lover of antique wooden boats, he then began working on the *Kate* as a deckhand, saying that his time at MMM has been “awesome... I have the perfect job for a retiree.” His work aboard

the *Kate* has spanned everything from painting to plumbing to conversing in fluent French with passengers from Quebec.

Born in Waterville, Maine, Ray grew up speaking French at home, as his parents hailed from Quebec and New Brunswick. He graduated from St. Francis College in Biddeford (now The University of New England), majoring in French and Latin. In 1969, he began his career in education in Bingham, Maine, where he taught French and Latin at Upper Kennebec Valley High School during the day and classes in conversational French for laborers and CEOs of Scott Paper Co. in the evenings. In 1970, Ray moved to Greenville, teaching French, English, psychology, and sociology at Greenville High School and continuing his evening classes in conversational French for Scott Paper. In 1973 found Ray moving to Bangor, where at John Bapst Memorial High School, he taught all four levels of French and Latin I and also served as vice principal and bus driver. He retired in 2006 after 37 years of teaching and 24 years as vice principal.

Ray’s connection to the Steamboat *Katahdin* dates back to the Scott Paper

era, when he remembers sitting at the stern of his boat, fishing on Moosehead Lake. One day he turned around, and there was the *Kate* only fifty yards away, involved in logging operations. He also remembers when the *Kate* was tied up at Shipyard Point, deteriorating after her years of logging were finished. “It was really sad,” he said.

But thankfully, that was not the end of the *Katahdin* or Ray’s connection to the boat. Years later, when the *Kate* had been restored and returned to cruising, Ray held his sister’s funeral aboard the *Kate*. He remembers with gratitude that day when Captain Maynard Russell steered the boat into Lily Bay for his family to spread her ashes by the beach.

And now, it seems fitting that Ray’s summer days find him on the lake and aboard the boat that he loves. Ray shared that his favorite days are when the *Kate* ventures to Mt. Kineo for the Kineo Cruise, remarking that “the look on [passengers’] faces upon seeing that rocky cliff stretching 900 feet high out of the middle of Moosehead Lake... No matter how many times I’ve seen it, the awesomeness of that site never diminishes.”



Deck hands Ray Giroux and Ashley Bussell at our Shakedown cruise.



Ray Giroux working hard to get the *Kate* ready for the cruising season.



Deck hands Bill Nye and Ray Giroux (center) and Captain Rocky Rockwell.

GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 3, 2024!

PLEASE JOIN US IN RESTORING THE KATAHDIN AND SECURING HER LEGACY ON MOOSEHEAD LAKE. YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED!



MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM
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MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM

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Targeted Giving “Wish List”

Replacement Cartridges for Life Rafts—\$150 each

New Camera System for the Katahdin—\$5,000

Mini Freezer for Galley—\$500

Owl Labs Meeting Camera—\$1,049

New “Camel” for Waterfront (camels act as a buffer between the boat and the dock)—\$1,500

UV Filtering Museum Shade—\$1,500

Cold Weather Gear for Crew—\$2,500

For more information and specific item costs, please contact Liz McKeil at 207-695-2716 or lmckeil@mmmk8.org.

