



## THE KATAHDIN SEXTANT

Volume I, Issue 15

October 2022

**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

It has been an unusually warm fall at Moosehead Lake and it feels odd to close the boat up when the weather is so beautiful.

We had another successful cruising season, with 8,294 tickets sold. Our schedule included some changes—we offered Kineo cruises on Saturday rather than Wednesday and we added a 2-hour Moose Island cruise to appeal to families. Both were successful and will continue next year. Our dance cruises also saw improved attendance, perhaps due to our very talented bands.

The last few weeks of our season saw high winds. We had to cancel two day cruises and postpone our Head of the Lake Cruise. Attendance on the Head of the Lake cruise decreased by 1/3 because of the change but we were able to provide turkey dinners to 30 local residents. They all seemed delighted at their unexpected early Thanksgiving!

After five years of painstaking work, The Sunken Steamboats of Moosehead Lake has finally wrapped. We plan to show it in Greenville and at several other museums along the coast during the off-season. It will be available in our gift shop next season. Keep an eye on our website and social media for viewing dates.

In September the Kate once again was pressed into service as a floating classroom. A total of 250 students from grades 5-12 participated in a half-day cruise. Kids from Greenville Schools, Foxcroft Academy, SeDoMoCha and Guilford Schools learned about watersheds, invasive species and marine ecosystems. MMM worked with Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District, AMC and Maine Lake Stewards to provide these hands-on experiences. We hope to continue offering these opportunities.

Our capital campaign got off to a strong start, with three donor cruises and many personal visits with generous donors. We have a 15 member fundraising committee comprised of local businesspeople, residents and members of our board of directors. We recognize that we are asking our donors to dig deep by adding the capital campaign to our annual appeals. We are deeply grateful for the dual support shown by all of you—Kate’s success is a direct result of your generosity! For more information about the capital campaign and ways to give, see page 6.

And finally, we pay our respects to those who have passed on. This year we lost Mary Lougee Ripley, Bill McKelvy, Howard Stagg IV, Linda Fabio and Bob Butzbach. They will all be remembered as staunch supporters of the Katahdin.

Liz McKeil, Executive Director



#### Inside this issue:

WE HAVE TO KEEP THE OLD GIRL CRUISING!	2
DICK & CHRIS BROWN CHAIR CAMPAIGN	3
DONORS CRUISE KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN	3
THANK YOU TO OUR CAMPAIGN DONORS!	4
COMING TO MOOSEHEAD LODGE IN GREENVILLE	5
WE CAN DO THIS!	6
DOCK WORK TO BEGIN	7
CRUISING SEASON PHOTOS	8-9



# Moosehead Marine Museum

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## TRIPADVISOR REVIEW

"THE MOOSEHEAD LAKE REGION IS THE REAL MAINE. A FOLIAGE TOUR ON THE KATAHDIN IS AN EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED. THE CAPTAIN IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HIS HISTORY AND STORIES ADD A LOT TO THIS CRUISE. I'VE LIVED IN MAINE ALMOST ALL OF MY LIFE, HIKE MANY OF ITS MOUNTAINS AND EXPLORED MUCH OF THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE. A RIDE ON THE KATAHDIN IS A HIGHLIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED. HIGHLY, HIGHLY RECOMMEND!"

- DEBORAH T.

OCTOBER 2022



## "We Have to Keep the Old Girl Cruising!"

No one knows the Kate like Rocky Rockwell. In the summer that he turned eighteen years old, Rocky went to work on the log drive. He spent eight summers on the drive, seven of which he worked at Spencer Bay on the "booming out crew," sending log booms across Moosehead Lake to the East Outlet. The towing vessel for those booms just happened to be the Katahdin. Rocky was often part of her five-man crew, doing everything from manning her engines to cooking chickens in the old cook stove in her galley.

So in 2014, when Rocky was approached by the Moosehead Marine Museum to again join the crew on the Kate, it was like returning to an old friend. But now, the Kate was a restored cruising vessel, rather than the old towing boat of logging days. And much life had been lived in those years in between.

Rocky Rockwell was born and raised in Greenville. His first experiences on the Katahdin involved sneaking up in a small boat as a boy, while the Kate was tied up at the Scott Paper office, the present location of Kelly's Landing. As long as no one was looking, Rocky and his friends could pull up their boats,

and even jump off her decks! "It was fun until they threatened to call our parents," Rocky said.

At eighteen years old, Rocky's first job on the log drive was on a crew picking pulpwood at Lazy Tom Bog, above Kokadjo. "I ate a lot of black flies in those woods," he remembered. He then took a position "picking the shores" and cleaning up wood at Indian Pond. From there, he was invited to join the "booming out crew" on Spencer Bay, moving wood and towing booms on the Katahdin across the lake. He worked at Spencer Bay for seven summers.

Then, in 1975 and 1976, everything changed. In 1972 the U.S. Congress passed the Clean Water Act, effectively ending the log drives on Maine's lakes and rivers. In 1976, Rocky was one of a crew of eighteen men who made up the "picking operation." They went to the head of the lake with two barges, going around the north shore, "picking the shore" and cleaning up stray wood. After the last log drive and picking operation were complete, Katahdin captain Walter Gary said to his crew, "Well boys, let's go. It's time

to get your stuff." And for Rocky, "It was tough to see it go... It was a glorious time and it was a lot of fun."

Rocky spent the remainder of his career in the woods, cutting wood and managing logging crews. The Katahdin, however, was left behind in poor condition. Her whistle, gears and a few items in the pilot house were all that remained of value. Rocky said, "It was a miracle that they didn't cut a hole right out of her," bringing her extraordinary life to an end.

However, in the late 70s, a group of local leaders foresaw an opportunity for the future and formed the Moosehead Marine Museum, leading a decades-long effort to "Save the Kate." Years of restoration followed until the Kate returned to cruising in 1986.

Rocky returned to the Katahdin in 2014, and now, in 2022, he can be found many days as her captain, engineer and narrator. Passengers remark, "The captain has a wealth of stories!" No one knows the Kate like Rocky Rockwell.

"That boat was home to us," he says. "We have to keep the old girl cruising... she's the only one left."

## Dick & Chris Brown Chair MMM's Keep Kate Cruising Campaign

The Moosehead Marine Museum has announced that Dick and Chris Brown are Honorary Chairs for a capital fundraising campaign to preserve the Museum's primary exhibit, the historic wooden steamboat, the Katahdin, the "Kate." The *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign* is in the early phase of a \$2 million campaign to replace the boat's decking and green rail, repair the hull, sea chest and propeller, and establish a reserve fund for future needs.

The Browns are long-time supporters of the Moosehead Marine Museum and have made a generous leadership gift to the organization. They say that they "are honored" to have been asked to serve

as Chairs for the campaign for the Kate. The couple have owned Sand Bar Island for 29 years and have a deep and strong commitment to the town of Greenville, a town they lovingly refer to as "the gateway to the greatest wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains." Dick shared, "We have always loved seeing the Kate cruise by on the lake. She is an essential part of the majesty of the region."

Liz McKeil, Executive Director, stated, "We are very grateful and excited to have Dick and Chris step into this important role. We appreciate their generosity and commitment to the Museum and are thrilled to be working with them to preserve the Kate and ensure that she will continue her legacy on

Moosehead Lake. Our goal is to keep the beloved vessel cruising for at least the next 25 years."

The Katahdin was built by Bath Iron Works in 1914 and served first in the Coburn Steamboat Company's fleet, hauling people, supplies and mail on Moosehead Lake and later for Hollingsworth Whitney and Scott Paper, towing log booms in Maine's logging industry. After being retired in 1975, the Kate was rescued, restored and returned to cruising as an excursion vessel in 1986. Today the Kate attracts more than 7,500 visitors annually to the Moosehead Lake Region and contributes an estimated \$1.5 million to the economy of Greenville.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE **KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN**, PLEASE VISIT US AT [WWW.KATAHDINCRUISES.COM/PRESERVE-THE-KATE/](http://WWW.KATAHDINCRUISES.COM/PRESERVE-THE-KATE/).

TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OR DIGITAL COPY OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM AT (207) 695-2716 OR [LMCKEIL@MMM8.ORG](mailto:LMCKEIL@MMM8.ORG)

## Donors Cruise Kicks Off Campaign



In addition to the Donors Cruise in June 2022, MMM hosted two additional cruises in July and September to introduce the *Keep the Kate Cruising Campaign*. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Pratt.



Dick & Chris Brown welcome guests to the Donors Cruise and display pottery from the Katahdin I steamboat wreck that washed up on Sand Bar Island. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Pratt.

# Moosehead Marine Museum

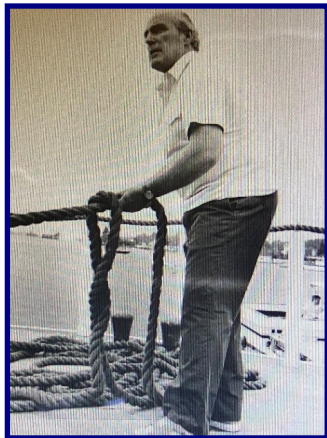
## Thank You to Our Keep Kate Cruising Campaign Donors!

“YEARS AGO, JOHN & FRANCES (SAWYER) RICHARDS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAD A VISION TO RESTORE THE KATAHDIN AND KEEP HER CRUISING. SINCE THEN, THE KATAHDIN AND MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM HAVE BROUGHT MANY VISITORS TO THE AREA. THE KATE HAS BECOME A GREAT ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE REGION.”

-STUART & LEA WATT

**THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM THANKS THE WATT FAMILY AND INDIAN HILL TRADING POST FOR THEIR GENEROUS LEADERSHIP GIFT TO THE KEEP THE KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN, IN MEMORY OF JOHN & FRANCES (SAWYER) RICHARDS.**

A. E. Robinson Oil Co.  
Telford & Karen Allen  
Jean Beadle  
*—in memory of Curt Beadle*  
Pam Sawyer Borgeson & Jeri Screnci  
*—in memory of Henry & Betty Sawyer*  
*—together with descendants of Stillman & Bertie Sawyer*  
Bryan & Autumn Boskovich  
Tanis & Frank Boskovich  
Greg & Anna Brown Family Fund  
*—in honor of Chris & Dick Brown*  
Richard H. & Christine D. Brown  
Ryan & Amy Brown  
Winifred V. Brown  
*—in honor of Richard & Christine Brown*  
Keyth & Charles Carter  
*—in memory of Capt. Stillman & Bertie Sawyer family*  
*—together with descendants of Stillman & Bertie Sawyer*  
Karen & Rick Cochran  
Stephen W. Cole



John Richards working aboard the Kate.

Isaac Crabtree  
@NorthWoodsAerial  
Michael & Gail Dacey  
The Davidson Family  
Chris & Nancy Demler  
David Demler  
Al & Linda Dinsmore  
Christopher C. Dore  
Fisher Foundation  
Bill & Sandy Fletcher  
Duane & Amy Fovargue  
Bob & Judi Frederick  
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Galliher  
*—in honor of Dick & Chris Brown*  
Jennifer Goodrich  
Shelli & Ralph Hall  
Robert & Robbin Harvey  
*—in memory of Ernest (Bart) & Emilyn (Kitty) Harvey*  
*—together with descendants of Stillman & Bertie Sawyer*  
Don & Joan Hawkes  
Benjamin & Mary Sue Henszey  
Scott & Rene Hersey  
John & Sue Hinkley  
John & Sewall Hornsey  
Robert Howard  
Joyce & Roger Howe  
*—in honor of Christine & Richard Brown*  
Zed & Rachel Howell  
Ralph & Kay Johnson  
Timothy & Donna Keltz  
Waldo & Lin Klein  
Lary Funeral Home, Inc.  
Steve & Lisa Levesque  
Libra Foundation  
John & Kay Macklin  
*—in memory of Erma & Ernest Harvey and E. Bart Harvey*  
*—together with descendants of Stillman & Bertie Sawyer*

Jim & Nancy Martin  
*—in honor of Chris & Richard Brown*  
Elizabeth McKeil  
*—in memory of Duke McKeil*  
Melkonian Family Charitable Fund  
*—in honor of Dick & Chris Brown*  
Jock Moore & Cathy Sweetser  
John & Candace Morrell  
*—in memory of Cort & Sally Morrell*  
Ovation Fundraising Counsel  
Gary & Diana Owens  
*—in honor of Dick & Chris Brown*  
Thomas & Constance Perry  
Steve & Laura Pollis  
Rick & Rosemary Postle  
*—in honor of Dick & Chris Brown*  
Rocky & Betsy Rockwell  
Maynard & Candy Russell  
Sessions Family  
Howard & Susan Sevey  
Jim & Sophie Sevey  
Senator Robert Torricelli  
Town of Greenville  
Ware-Butler Building Supply  
John Watt  
Watt Family & Indian Hill Trading Post  
*—in memory of John P. & Frances Richards*  
Henry W. & Marion A. Whelpley  
Pete & Jeannie Whitin  
*—in memory of Paul Whitin V*  
Roy & Nancy Wilson  
Wilson Pond Cabins  
J. Rogers Woolston  
*—in memory of Joseph Kovacs*  
  
(as of October 28, 2022)

## Coming to Moosehead Lodge in Greenville, Maine

The arrival of a six year-old girl at Moosehead Lodge in Greenville was the beginning of a lifelong adventure and love affair. To get here back then, it took two days by car; the turnpike only went as far as Augusta. I got car sick on that first trip, so it wasn't all that much fun!

Our family of six stayed in a cabin by the lake. It all seemed like a fantasy to a kid from a suburb in Connecticut. The endless deep woods—some were really dark and were the home of moose, bear, deer and bobcats—this was the stuff of dreams! Swimming in such a big, cold, clear lake ringed by mountains, riding in a canoe, going on boat rides with my father, and occasionally seeing the big white boat hauling a huge amount of logs across the lake—these were things a six year-old girl had never seen or done before!

And you just couldn't beat being able to scour the Indian Store for slingshots, rubber snakes, rabbits' feet, animal statues, puzzles, playing cards, bracelets, hats and lovely balsam pillows... There was no end to the fun things to amuse a kid there!

Our first visit flew by and before I knew it, we were headed home, but we left

with the promise to return the next year.

When we finally turned down Shoals Road that next year, we all realized it wasn't a dream. We actually had been here and loved every minute! By the end of the first day of that second visit, I knew this was where I wanted to be and this is where I was meant to be!

Sadly, every year we had to go home—but I felt like this was home! On the final morning, I hated having to say good-bye to friends, my woods, my hopes of seeing a moose, swimming in the lake, riding in a canoe, eating ice cream at the counter of Harris Drug Store, going to the Rockwood dump to see bears, and seeing all the logs hauled down the lake by that big white boat.

When the car crested Indian Hill, we all looked back to say good-bye to Moosehead. Holding the latest balsam pillow that my mother had bought, I would start to cry the quiet cry of deep sadness. I

would cry all the way to Augusta, and sometimes Kittery.

As soon as we got home and unpacked, we would start looking forward to next year. My father would come home from work and start the count-down—"eleven months til we go back to Moosehead," he would say. And then ten months. Eventually, in the spring, our excitement grew when we would get to sixty days to Moosehead... a month... two weeks!

As soon as I was able, I bought land and built my house in Beaver Cove. This was home and where I was meant to be. As the decades have passed, I look back at how fortunate I have been to live my dream, live in a place I love, and even be able to ride that big white boat—the boat that I now know is the one-of-a-kind steamboat Katahdin, the dynamic, living symbol of our history and a treasure for our present and future.

—Sally Farrand, *Keep Kate*  
Cruising Committee Member



The old Indian Store in downtown Greenville.



The Katahdin towing a log boom.

**"THE KATAHDIN—  
LAUNCHED ON JULY  
16, 1983..."**

THIS BANNER HEADLINE TELLS ONLY ONE MOMENTOUS EVENT IN THIS, AN EXCITING YEAR. THIS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK HAS TAKEN MANY SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD RESTORATION AND HER FUTURE ROLE AS A WORKING STEAMSHIP ON MOOSEHEAD LAKE. TO RECORD THE VARIED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE GENEROSITY OF SO MANY PEOPLE (AND THEIR BUSINESSES) WOULD FILL VOLUMES. THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF MANY BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS, THE KATAHDIN WAS LAUNCHED FROM DRY DOCK ON JULY 16 AT 1:55PM!!"

-MMM NEWSLETTER,  
1983

# Moosehead Marine Museum

## We Can Do This!

“AND SO, TOURISM IS A REAL BIG THING, BUT WE ALSO NEED TOURISM TO BLEND WITH THE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, OUR RIVERS, OUR POWER. THE KATAHDIN IS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT TIE IT TOGETHER. I’VE TRAVELED QUITE A BIT AND I DON’T KNOW OF A MORE REFRESHING PLACE TO COME THAN MOOSEHEAD LAKE, WHETHER IT BE FOR THE SEAPLANE FLY-IN, SKIING ON SQUAW MOUNTAIN OR CRUISING ON THE KATAHDIN.”

-DUANE LANDER, MMM  
FOUNDER & FORMER  
BOARD MEMBER

Moosehead Marine Museum’s Board of Directors believes that in order to keep the Kate cruise-worthy for the next 25 years or more, we must raise funds to address capital needs to preserve the boat. We also want to create a reserve fund to be better able to respond to future needs of the vessel. The Board proposed to conduct a \$2 million fundraising campaign. We retained Ovation Fundraising Counsel to lead a fundraising planning study in 2021.

Based on the findings and the recommendations of the planning study consultant, the Moosehead Marine Museum’s Board of Directors voted to move forward with the capital campaign in 2022.

### **What is the goal of the Keep Kate Cruising Campaign?**

Our goal is to insure that the Kate is cruise-worthy for our thousands of annual guests for many, many years to come. By replacing the decks,

doing other necessary repairs, building a reserve fund for ongoing required maintenance, we will keep this historic steamboat operating, attracting visitors to Moosehead Lake and contributing to the local economy.

We have set a \$2 million fundraising goal and have launched the *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign* to secure support from individuals, businesses and foundations. Many generous donations will be required to be successful in preserving the Kate.

### **How can I support the Keep Kate Cruising Campaign?**

There are many ways to support the Moosehead Marine Museum, including outright gifts of cash or donations that can be converted to cash and planned gifts such as bequests that will support the long-term sustainability of the Museum.

If you are 70 1/2 years 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/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.

Gifts and donations may be pledged and paid over 5 years.

### **I want to help!**

Thank you for your interest in the *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign*. For more information or to request your copy of our case for support, please contact us at the museum at [lmckel@mmmk8.org](mailto:lmckel@mmmk8.org) or (207) 695-2716. Or scan the QR code below for more info.



## Deck Work to Begin this Fall

To date our *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign* has secured almost \$660,000 in gifts and pledges toward our goal of \$2 million.

Our early fundraising success enables us to start Phase I of a five-year project: Replacement of the aft upper deck (or "upper fantail") of the *Kate*. The upper fantail is the area with the most passenger loads, whether as a seating area during day cruises or as a dance floor during R & B cruises.

In late November, Bristol Marine (formerly the Ship-

yard at Boothbay Harbor) will spend a couple of weeks taking precise measurements of the structure using laser devices. They will remove decking and cabin structure around the aft curvature of the "house" to inspect the condition of the deck and estimate how far forward their repairs must extend.

Over the winter months, using their laser measurements, the craftsmen at the shipyard will build out the replacement deck in sections. They will return to Moosehead Lake in early April to begin demolition and re-

placement of the deck. This phase of the project will require installation of supports for the "house" and probably replacement of some of the support stanchions that extend upward from the lower fantail. Observers can expect to see some amount of shrink wrap to protect the work crew from the elements.

The target date for completion of this phase of the deck replacement is June 1, 2023.



## "Notice to Geologists and Mineralogists,

*Or any Parties who may be disposed to explore the minerals and other treasures in the vicinity of Moose Head Lake.*

The Steamer *Moose Head* of 130 tons burthen, with a cabin on deck to accommodate 30 or 40 gentlemen, will devote two months only to parties of the above description, commencing on the 4th of July. The boat will run only on the Lake and as a summer retreat for a few weeks, and for grandeur of scenery, perhaps no place in America will surpass it.

The Lake is over 40 miles in length, and from 3 to 25 miles wide, studded with islands, and stored with ducks, geese, and large salmon

trout, which are caught in great abundance. Tickets for a week's or month's excursion may be had of ASHUR ADAMS, at Brigg's Reading Room, Boston, or at the bar of the Bangor House in Bangor, or by application to JAS. H. GOWER, Agent of the Lake.

It is much to be regretted that the Ladies cannot be invited to visit the Lake with their friends, owing to the bad state of the road for the last 15 miles to the Lake. In another year it is expected that a good carriage road

will be opened to the Lake, and first rate accommodations on the Lake.

Gentlemen visiting the Lake this season will first go to Bangor, and from there to Monson, from which place they will have to walk to the Lake, a distance of only 15 miles."

-from a Bangor newspaper, dated July 4, 1836



Steamboat *Moosehead*

## IN LOVING MEMORY...

WE REMEMBER THESE SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE KATAHDIN:

BOB BUTZBACH

LINDA FABIO

BILL MCKELVY

MARY LOUGEE RIPLEY

HOWARD STAGG, IV

# Moosehead Marine Museum

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## 2022—The Season in Review



Everyone knows the sound of Kate's whistle! Captains Randy Gartley and Matt Kane install a new whistle tank for the Katahdin in preparation for the 2022 cruising season. Thank you to the Town of Greenville for the whistle tank.



Engineer Tom Theriault deploys the rescue dinghy as part of the man overboard rescue drill on our pre-season Shakedown cruise.



Captain Rocky Rockwell pilots the Katahdin with assistance from crewman Ray Giroux. Thank you to passenger David T. for submitting this photo.



It was a summer of weddings on the Kate! The Dutil family celebrated their rehearsal dinner aboard the Katahdin with a special cruise to Mt. Kineo & Rockwood. Photo credit @catoularochelle.



Passengers prepare to board the Kate for a Kineo cruise on a perfect August day! Thank you to passenger Sharon H. for submitting this photo.



Crew member Graceanne joined us this summer as our First Mates Club director. Parents relax and enjoy the cruise while their children build and paint their own mini-steamboats! Thank you to donors Bob & Judi Frederick for making this program possible.



We had special visitors aboard the Kate in September! Over three weeks, a total of 250 middle- and high-school students from Piscataquis County visited the museum and Katahdin for 2-hour cruises focused on field experiences in marine ecosystems.



MMM Board Member Kay Johnson of Maine Lake Stewards discusses invasive lake species with local high school students aboard the Katahdin. Photo by Sally Farrand.

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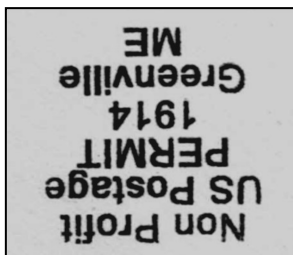
Phone: 207-695-2716  
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[www.katahdincruises.com](http://www.katahdincruises.com)



### Targeted Giving “Wish List”

- Katahdin Fuel Day-Tank—\$10,000
- Educational Model of Moosehead Lake—\$4,500
- First Mate’s Club Educational Programming—\$3,500
- Garmin GPS Chart Plotter for Wheelhouse—\$2,500
- Oil Pump for CAT Engine—\$700
- Deck Chairs—\$37 each, 50 needed
- Life Vests—\$15 each, 50 needed

For more information and specific item costs, please contact Liz McKeil at 207-695-2716 or [lmckeil@mmmk8.org](mailto:lmckeil@mmmk8.org)



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