

Float Back In Time

The image of a Tall Ship may conjure images of exploring new worlds, pirates and treasure maps, or other notions of a time long ago. Being aboard a Tall Ship is no different. In fact, not much has changed on the deck of a schooner like the Manitou, the centerpiece of the Tall Ship Company in Traverse City.

As the ship readies for sail, the crew enlists the help of willing passengers in hoisting the sails. By the second sail the "newbie"-crew had their rhythm and the admiration of all watching. What they thought would be a relaxing sail had turned quickly into a lesson in history and a hands-on experience with the way things were. But this was only part of the experience. Shouts of "Ready on the peak?" and affirmative "that's well" were foreign at first, but after some educational explanations from Captain and Crew, every passenger was transported to the time before computers, cars, and cable television.

"Everything is done by hand. From the block and tackle rigging to the smallest knot, the crew put it together," said Shannon Smith, First Mate on the Manitou. Smith, a former Marine Biology student now working on her Captain's license, lives



aboard the Manitou with the rest of the Crew throughout the season. "It makes getting somewhere so much different. It's no longer just a destination, it's an adventure and a process."

The Tall Ship Manitou is a replica of an 1800's "coasting" cargo schooner, similar to those that sailed the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. Everyone on board gets the feel for what it was like when ships of this size were a primary method of transportation and commerce. Robin Abbott and her husband Duane, recent passengers on the Manitou, are avid sailors themselves, yet found fewer similarities than expected on the trip. "You take it for granted what they had to do in the old days," said Robin. "There is so much more to do on a ship like this."

The Schooner Manitou is captained by Dave McGinnis who hired on as the ship's First Mate while the schooner was operating on Lake Champlain in Vermont. After the ship's purchase by the Tall Ship Company in 1991, McGinnis was hired as Captain and brought the schooner through the Erie Canal and around to Traverse City where it currently resides.

Besides serving as captain, Captain Dave answers passenger questions on anything from the history of the ship to the art of seamanship. His extensive knowledge of sailing makes the tour an intriguing lesson in history for any curious passenger.

The 114-foot ship offers three sails daily, providing a unique experience on Grand Traverse Bay with each one. Bed & Breakfast cruises are also through September giving guests an opportunity to live the simpler life, complete with breakfast on a woodstove. For more information on the Tall Ship Manitou or to make a reservation, call (231) 941-2000 or (800) 678-0383.

SAILING THROUGH SUMMER OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Enter to win the Record-Eagle Sailing Through Summer contest. Win a Bed & Breakfast cruise for two aboard the Tall Ship *Manitou*. Just fill out this form and mail or deliver it to:

Sailing Through Summer Getaway
C/o Record-Eagle
120 W. Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49684

Name (first and last) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Would you like to receive contest information or promotional updates from (check all that apply):

Record-Eagle Tall Ship Co.

Where did you pick up your Summer Guide? _____

Winners will be drawn at 5 pm on August 12, 2003. No photocopies of the entry form will be accepted. Must be 18 or older to win.