

The St. Ignace News

\$1

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave



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Rusticator Wins Best of Show

Florida Man Walks Away With Four Awards at Annual Hessel Boat Show

By Jonathan Eppley

One man, three boats, four awards, and for the second straight year, a John Allen boat has won the top award at the annual Les Cheneaux boat show.

Mr. Allen, an antique boat collector from Naples, Florida, brought three boats to the 2009 Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show Saturday, August 8; *Chief Mackinac*, the 32-foot 1937 Consolidated launch that won best of show last year; *Honey Don't*, a 26-foot 1928 Dodge Watercraft runabout, and *Rusticator*, a 30-foot 1923 Fay and Bowen launch. *Rusticator* earned this year's top honor for best of show, as voted by judges from the Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS).

What's more, *Honey Don't* was recognized by the judges to receive the Doris Heuck Abnee Award for the best of show runner-up. Both *Rusticator* and *Honey Don't* won first place in their respective classes, launch and over-24-foot runabout.

"They're judged on how original is the boat and how true to original specifications the restoration of the boat is," Mr. Allen said.

Chief Mackinac returned to the

show this year as a featured boat and was not a contender for an award. It won best of show in 2004 and 2008.

Mr. Allen's boats are professionally restored right down to the last detail. The 86-year-old *Rusticator* was restored by Antique Boat Restoration of Clayton, New York, starting in 2006. The restoration is so authentic that it even includes the gold-painted arrow carved on the entire length of both sides of its white hull to designate it as a Fay and Bowen flagship launch. It truly is a rarity, he said.

"I know of two other Fay and Bowen's that are currently in the water," he said. "I don't know how many other Fay and Bowen golden arrows are currently in the water and running. It's very rare and unusual."

Inside, the boat houses the original, fully-restored, 500-cubic-inch 50-horsepower engine, and the deck is the only part of the boat that is not original wood.

One week prior to the Les Cheneaux show at the Hessel

Marina, *Rusticator* won best of show, best launch, and people's choice at the 2009 Antique Boat Show and Auction in Clayton, New York. It also received perfect marks in a 100-point ACBS inspection, earning it the title of Best Preserved Antique Boat

of the Year at that show.

"I think the judges recognize it for being a very unique and very well preserved boat that has stayed true to the ACBS standards for preserved restorations," he said.

Turn to page 11: Winners



John Allen of Naples, Florida stands in his 1923 Fay & Bowen Launch *Rusticator*, which won top honors at the 32nd Annual Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show Saturday, August 8. The 30-foot-long boat also won first place in the Launch class.

John Allen's Boats

Year: 1937
 Make: Consolidated Launch
 Length: 32 feet long
 Class: Class 13 Launch
 Awards: 2009 Feature Boat, Not in Award Contention -- 2008 Best of Show winner

Rusticator

Year: 1923
 Make: Fay & Bowen Launch
 Length: 30 feet long
 Class: Class 13 Launch
 Awards: 2009 Best of Show and Best in Class

HONEY DON'T

Year: 1928
 Make: Dodge Watercraft
 Length: 26 feet long
 Class: Class 5 Runabout
 Awards: 2009 Best of Show Runner-up and Best in Class

Thousands Enjoy Classic Boats

By Jonathan Eppley

The rain finally stopped just past noon. Dark clouds lingered in the sky and steady winds kissed the Hessel harbor, filled with wood boats that glisten as much under gray skies as they do in the sun. The morning downpour did hurt attendance at the 32nd Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show and Festival of Arts, said Boat Show Committee Chair Barb Smith, but as the day opened up, it was just like old times, with some of the best antique boats in the country on display, ice cream and maple syrup, a midway of professional art, live music, pulled pork and whitefish

sandwiches.

Hundreds of spectators attended the show early on, wearing raincoats and carrying umbrellas to keep dry. Three hours of morning rain delayed performances by the Soo Swing Band and Soo Opera Theatre because they didn't want to get their equipment wet, Mrs. Smith said.

Joe Eger of Eger Beaver Canvas was one of the many exhibitor tents set up in the Dockside Traders section of the show. He stood under his tent Saturday, August 8, as he watched show-goers run from tent to tent trying to stay as dry as possible.

"There were lots of people out here in the rain," he said. "It was unbelievable."

Once the rain stopped, people emerged from their shelters and descended to the boat show in droves.

They were greeted by members of

the Soo Opera Theatre group singing popular Broadway show tunes and opera over the marina's speaker system. The sounds of classic opera carried across the marina to set the tone for what would turn out to be a successful, albeit cold and damp, Les Cheneaux Islands boat show.

Bruce Ball of Cedarville unbuttoned the canvas cover on his 30-foot replica 1930 Hackercraft launch, *Benchar*, to sit inside the cockpit and have lunch. He has exhibited his boat in the show every year since he bought it in 1994.

"It's called a user boat. That's what the guys in the show call it," he said, "because this boat's in the water all summer. This is very low maintenance" because it's a replica boat.

To get *Benchar* ready for the show, he said he just gave it a good wash and drove it from his home on Island No. 8.

"It was beautiful this morning when the sun was coming up," he said. "As long as it clears up by the time I go home, it'll be OK. I've got 16 miles to travel."

When the performers from the Soo Opera Theatre group were finished, the Soo Swing Band picked up their instruments in front of the marina building to serenade the thousands of show atten-

dants as they walked through the gate into the show.

As they do every year, show attendees vote for their favorite boat to receive the Jim Bohn People's Choice Award. This year, *Polly Ann* of Les Cheneaux was selected to receive the award.

The boat is shared by the Bickhart and Berghausen families of Big LaSalle Island. Brothers Rob and Jes Bickhart spent two days cleaning, polishing, and preparing the boat for the show. All of their hard work paid off during the awards ceremony when they were announced as the people's choice winner.

"A lot of people from around here recognize the boat," Rob Bickhart said. "We have a lot of friends every year that come to the boat show. They all must have voted for us."

The 22-foot, 1922 Hackercraft spent the past winter at Tassier Boat Works in Cedarville being refinished, and the two brothers thought it was the perfect time to enter it into the boat show.

Greg and Lori Schmidt of DeTour displayed their 16-foot, round-bottom, 1918 Evinrude Craft de Luxe canoe, *Bess*, on land near the entrance of the show. The couple has been coming to the show for about 20 years, but this is their first time ever displaying a boat. They said they are so pleased with the

Turn to page 12: Boat Show

Lost Sunken Barge Found on Lake Floor

Researchers Also Find Vent Hole in Cave

By Karen Gould

Covered in zebra mussels, a wooden barge with a clam bucket scoop that sank between Mackinac Island and St. Ignace in a storm more than 50 years ago was found again last week by scientists aboard *Pride of Michigan*. The barge was discovered by divers in 2000, and then lost again until now. The clamshell scoop on the barge was built by the late Frank Glashaw, Sr. of St. Ignace. His son, Ernie, also of St. Ignace, remembers his father's story about the sinking of the boat.

The barge sank around 1947, he believes, when he was about seven years old.

At that time, Edison Sault Electric Company operated both water and electric service in St. Ignace and on Mackinac Island. A new water intake site was needed on the Island and the Sault Ste. Marie-based company mounted Mr. Glashaw's scooping mechanism onto the barge to dig the underwater trench.

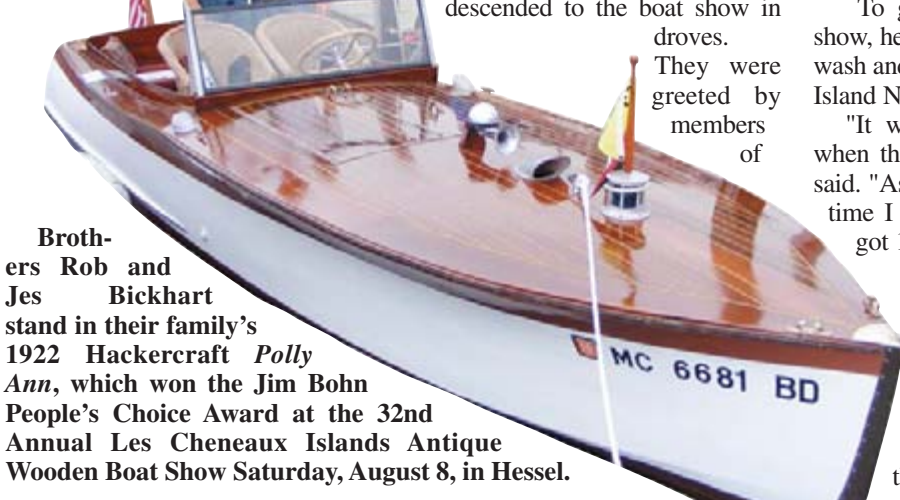
"When they came back, they ended up in a little bit of a storm," remembers Mr. Glashaw. "As Dad told it, he came out of the cabin of the tugboat and he saw a big wave come along and it hit the front end of that barge and it just took the bottom right out of it. And the barge immediately started down. Dad said he grabbed an ax and he chopped the tow lines so it wouldn't pull the tugboat down, too."

His father has registered patents on parts of the machine, said Mr. Glashaw, and he also thinks there may be an eight millimeter movie

"As Dad told it, he came out of the cabin of the tugboat and he saw a big wave come along and it hit the front end of that barge and it just took the bottom right out of it. And the barge immediately started down..."

- Ernie Glashaw, St. Ignace

Turn to page 9: Discovery



Brothers Rob and Jes Bickhart stand in their family's 1922 Hackercraft *Polly Ann*, which won the Jim Bohn People's Choice Award at the 32nd Annual Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show Saturday, August 8, in Hessel.

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'It Was Quite a Thrill for Us All' – Divers Make More Discoveries at Straits

Discovery: From page 1

about it, which he now is looking for. It was air operated, with valves that had to be pushed down by hand.

Charles Feltner of Drummond Island, who wrote the book, "Shipwrecks of the Straits of Mackinac," does not include the barge in his book under the section of undiscovered wrecks. He told *The St. Ignace News* he was not aware of the vessel or its sinking. Edison Sault staff on Mackinac Island say no records exist of the incident.

"I would say there are more boats on the bottom that are not recorded than boats we know of," said Captain Luke Clyburn of the *Pride of Michigan*. He has been doing Great Lakes research for about 50 years.

Using sonar Wednesday, August 5, after about six hours of searching, scientists believed they had found the barge between Mackinac Island and St. Ignace. They recorded its position and returned in the afternoon, sending a unmanned remote operating vehicle (ROV) down to the site. Viewing the ROV's cameras through an on-deck computer, the scientists watched the barge and digging apparatus come into view.

"It was quite a thrill for us all," said Matthew Cook, president of SeaView Systems of Dexter. "You sort of grind away at this sort of



Divers approach the entrance to an underwater cave discovered last fall off Mackinac Island and explored again Tuesday, August 4. Divers are Wayne Lusardi, Jonathan Halland, Emily Hadish, and Joe Lelys. (Photograph by Luke Clyburn)

thing for years. You have some success sometimes. This was a classic example of how it is meant to go. You start out with some history or an inkling that there is something out there. You do the primary research with a side scan sonar and navigation and hand over the operation, whether it is to diving or an

ROV, and tah-dah. And then you hand it over to historians."

Mr. Cook, originally from Australia, has traveled around the world working on ROV projects.

The exact location and depth of the vessel is not being disclosed until state archeologists have a chance to research and document the find.

Readings from the ROV unit measure the barge at 33 feet long and eight feet wide.

"The work was really textbook," said Jerry Knisley of Hypack at Middleton, Connecticut, a company that has donated the computer software to go with sounding equipment already onboard the vessel. The equipment used is a lower resolution picture than what people see in magazines and television shows about such projects. The lower resolution, he said, offers fewer visible details.



Onboard a support boat docked on Mackinac Island Wednesday, August 5, researchers view side scan charts on a computer screen indicating an object on the bottom of Lake Huron. Several hours later, cameras from an unmanned remote operating vehicle confirm researchers' belief that they have relocated a sunken barge. Pictured are (from left) volunteer Rod Hadash, Jerry Knisley, from Hypack of Middleton, Connecticut, Captain Luke Clyburn of the *Pride of Michigan*, and Elliott Smith, science advisor to the Noble Odyssey Foundation.



Moving with the Lake Huron current, a cable still dangles from the arm of the clam bucket scoop attached to a work barge that sank around 1947 between St. Ignace and Mackinac Island. This underwater picture was taken from a film of the wreck Wednesday, August 5. Crew aboard the *Pride of Michigan* used a remote operating vehicle to film and explore the site. Information about the barge will be given to state archaeologists, who will research and document the find. (Photograph courtesy of Luke Clyburn)

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"We took the side scan equipment to a known wreck to get an idea of what the wreck should look like with this equipment in these conditions. Then we went and looked for the wreck, came up with a target, and then we handed the target off and said, 'We're done. Tell us what we found.'"

Mr. Cook agreed that testing the equipment on the *William Young* shipwreck first was the right decision.

"That's a technique in calibration," said Mr. Cook. "Different

environments all have different pitches. It's pretty subjective art, the side scan interpretation."

Back at the St. Ignace Marina Wednesday evening, after reviewing side scans taken earlier in the day, the excitement of the scientists was contagious as they watched the video they had taken of the barge.

"Matthew brings the ROV unit in and drops down the line," said Mr. Knisley. "We're watching it on television, live. When it hits the bottom, we look and we don't see anything. And the way the sonar

works, it paints an image like hands on a clock. It's reaching out a couple of hundred feet and we're not seeing a thing. Then it turns and it paints the ship."

"He missed dropping the ROV on the ship by 10 feet," adds Capt. Clyburn. "That's how accurate it is."

"It was exciting," said Rod Hadash, a volunteer and father of Sea Cadet Emily Hadash.

The video reveals that the clam bucket apparatus remains upright on the deck of the barge.

"I love the fact that this thing is still hanging up in the water like it is ready to work," said Elliott Smith, science advisor to the research group, called Noble Odyssey Foundation.

The barge was first found about nine years ago by local divers, although they never were able find it again, said Dan Friedhoff, vice president with Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve. Mr. Friedhoff gave the scientists the old location coordinates in hopes that they might have time to search the area again for the barge.

The general location of the barge, said Mr. Friedhoff, will offer protection to divers from prevailing westerly winds, making it possible for divers to one day visit the site, even in bad weather. Also, the barge will offer a challenge to divers and require moderately advanced diving skills, he said.

"I think it will be very popular" as a dive site, he said.

Dr. Smith said work Tuesday was taking place east of the Mackinac Bridge as researchers used an echo sounder to produce an image of the Mackinac Channel, the ancient river that once flowed through the Straits, carving a channel through the rock that now lies hidden under the water. Work included crisscrossing the channel, collecting depth information. The process is called lawn mowing, and the team covered 31 miles Tuesday, going back and forth over the channel. Wednesday's work totaled 29

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Research Team Says Cave Finding May Be Significant

Discovery: From page 9

miles. When the information is integrated with computer software, a three-dimensional imagine of the channel is drawn for the scientists.

"When you are doing it," said Dr. Smith, talking about the depth plotting of the channel, "all you see is the line describing the depth and we'd come to the edge of the channel and there is a sharp break there like a wall, and it goes down more than 250 feet, then back up the other side."

Also discovered by the scientists was a vent hole in the underwater cave near a submerged waterfall east of Mackinac Island, and an underground spring. The waterfall and cave were earlier discovered by the same group, who have done research in the Straits since 2006.

Also Tuesday, working from a

second vessel with Capt. Clyburn was Wayne Lusardi, a maritime archaeologist with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Alpena, and two other divers. The group explored the underwater cave found last fall near the submerged waterfall found in 2006 on the east side of the Island.

Sitting at the back of the cave, a natural vent hole was discovered. It may prove to be a significant find and could indicate the cave was used by those living and traveling in the Straits region more the 6,000 years ago, say the scientists. The cave walls, however, were covered with zebra mussels and the floor with pebbles and sediment. More research is needed to prove human habitation, they agreed.

Eventually, if human occupation

is found at the cave site, said Mr. Lusardi, it would be an important discovery aiding in the understanding of where people were living at the time when the lake levels were considerably lower than they are now.

"When I first saw it," he said, "it was like 'wow' this really does have possibilities here."

The hope is that scientists are going to find concrete evidence of home sites, whether they were temporary camps, burial grounds, or longer term occupation sites that are now submerged in the lakes, said Mr. Lusardi.

"Finding this feature like a cave is a really good starting point to finding such sites," he said. "It's actually pretty cool stuff. We just took a preliminary look at it and there is a lot of work yet to be

St. Ignace Lower Grades Score 'A' – LaSalle Gets 'C'

Michael Ayala

The Michigan "Education Yes!" report card for the St. Ignace Area Schools assigned the elementary and middle schools an "A" while the high school received a "C" for the 2008 to 2009 school year, mirroring the previous school year's results. The report card was discussed during the Monday, August 10, board of education meeting.

The report card is assembled using the scores of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Examination (MME). Tests in mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies are administered by MEAP to students in grades 3 through 9. The same subjects are tested by MME on grade 11 students.

The state of Michigan grades the scores and assigns each student a number from one to four, with one being the best. Students who achieve a one or two are considered to be of "mastery" status.

The MME results at LaSalle High School were discussed in detail at Monday's meeting. The

report outlined improvement in three of five subject areas.

Improvement was shown in mathematics, which increased from 26% mastery in the 2007-08 school year to 34% in the 2008-09 year. Writing also improved, from 39% in 2007-08 to 43% in the 2008-09 year. LaSalle High School matched the state average mastery level in writing, which was 43% but below the 49% average in mathematics.

Social studies also demonstrated improvement, increasing to 76% in 2008-09. The high school was slightly below state average on social studies, which was set at 81% mastery.

"All of those scores have room for improvement," Superintendent Mike Springsteen said. "On the plus side, the scores are improving."

Scores diminished in the reading and science subjects, from 64% to 50% and 57% to 54%, respectively.

LaSalle High School Principal Don Gustafson believes the reason for the decline may be because of class size and composition. The

MME was administered to 61 students in 2007-08, whereas 50 students were tested in 2008-09. Each class has its own set of talents, he said, which may be why some scores improved while others have declined.

The LaSalle school improvement team, comprised of teaching staff and aides, will look into the data from the MME and identify strategies for improvement, Mr. Gustafson said.

The high school has made efforts to improve mathematics and writing since the last report card was issued. Focus on those subjects will continue, while writing will be emphasized throughout all classes, Mr. Springsteen said.

In mathematics classes, for example, students may be required to write reports relevant to what they are studying.

A new program, called Algebra for All, will begin in the fall. The program will function as a workshop for mathematics teachers and will show them techniques to better teach algebra to students, Mr. Springsteen said.



Performing underwater research in the Straits, the *Pride of Michigan* moored on Mackinac Island Wednesday afternoon, August 5. Captain Luke Clyburn (from left) and Lieutenant Kathy Trax are joined on deck by U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. During the stop, scientists onboard the vessel reviewed data collected that day and the cadets gave a tour of the ship to Scouts serving at Fort Mackinac. Cadets pictured (in no order) include Jonathan Allen of Grosse Pointe Farms, Matther Blundell of Roseville, Richard Cover of Richmond, Wyatt Cox of Holly, Emily Hadash of White Lake, Jacob Mantay of Commerce Township, Jonathan Medved of Rochester Hills, Connor Novack of Oxford, Merek Pilarski of Sterling Heights, Keith Sawruk of Auburn Hills, Matthew Shield of Grosse Pointe Park, Regan Steen of East Point, Luke Stocking of Harrison Township, Brandon Thibault of Fenton, Jacob Barrett or South Bend, Indiana, Hannah White of Idabel, Oklahoma, and Eric Pino of Hagerstown, Maryland.

done."

Over the last many tens of thousands of years, the Great Lakes were formed by glaciers moving and scouring out large depressions. The glaciers were advancing and receding. At the end of the last ice age, said Mr. Lusardi, Lake Huron was considerably different than we know it today. The lake levels seven to eight thousand years ago were much lower than they are now and at times, many hundreds of feet lower in some places. Lake Huron, he said, essentially was a couple of lakes with a land bridge that extended from present-day Alpena over to Ontario.

When people were first introduced to Michigan, he said, the shoreline that they would have walked upon is now considerably beneath the lake levels. This cave

may have been a part of the shoreline that early people would have used in some capacity.

Also discovered at the cave site was a cold water spring, said Capt. Clyburn. The information will be turned over to Dr. Smith and Dr. Bopi Biddanda, a Great Lakes research scientist with Grand Valley State University.

Using a smaller vessel, Capt. Clyburn, Lieutenant Kathy Trax, and others will continue exploration in the Straits until fall.

"I have no question that out here are some keys to ancient history for this area," said Capt. Clyburn. "We just don't know exactly where to go for it."

EUP Motorcycle Pursuit Ends With Two Arrests Thursday

Two motorcycle riders were arrested Thursday afternoon, August 6, following a chase through Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties. Both men are from Gaylord and await court appearances this week.

The pursuit was initiated by a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer (CO) just east of Newberry with the motorcycles heading eastbound on M-28. Michigan State Police in St. Ignace said the motorcycles passed the CO at a high rate of speed. He attempted to stop them, but the two riders did not stop.

The pursuit continued south on M-123, where one motorcycle stopped and the rider was arrested just north of Trout Lake in Chippewa County.

The other motorcycle continued southbound on M-123 and was pursued by State Police north of Moran in Mackinac County, with assistance from the Mackinac County Sheriff Department. The cyclist drove off the road at the northbound I-75 entry ramp at M-123 and fled into a swampy area.

After about 10 minutes, the cyclist turned himself over to the

authorities at the scene.

Both riders were charged with fleeing and eluding an officer, fourth degree. Fourth degree is the least severe charge for fleeing and eluding.

Kyle Larson, 23, of Gaylord, the man arrested north of Trout Lake, was arraigned Friday, August 7. His bond was set at \$1,000 and he was lodged at Schoolcraft County Jail, awaiting a pretrial Thursday, August 13 in 92nd District Court in Newberry.

Corey Larson, 19, of Gaylord, the second suspect arrested Thursday, was lodged at Mackinac County Jail on a \$10,000 bond, but was released

on his personal recognizance. He was also charged with reckless driving and arraigned August 7. His pretrial hearing is scheduled Wednesday, August 12, in 92nd District Court, St. Ignace.

"There was a lot of reckless driving on his part, a lot of high speeds," said F/Lt. Dave Hopper, commanding officer at the St. Ignace State Police Post. "Probably speeds over 100 miles per hour."

Departments involved were the DNR, Mackinac County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police of the Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace posts, and U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement.



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If anyone was inadvertently left out, we apologize.

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