



# THE KATAHDIN SEXTANT

Volume I, Issue 11

October 2020

**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

Fall came early to Moosehead Lake this year, putting a frosty cap on an unusual season. The remarkable events of this year have had multiple impacts and we hope that this newsletter finds you and yours well.

With the arrival of the coronavirus in March we faced a dilemma. The electrical work was underway and the engine replacement was not complete. We were able to get a designation as an essential business from the State of Maine, which enabled us to continue the projects with safety precautions.

The board met frequently during the spring to consider whether to move forward with the 2020 cruising season. In early June restrictions had eased enough to justify a shortened cruising season with day cruising only and a limit of 80 passengers (as opposed to the usual 225). In addition, the receipt of Payroll Protection Program funds and a disaster relief loan from the Small Business Administration created a buffer for the financial risks in-

volved in a shortened season.

Because passenger and crew safety are our highest priority, we changed some of our practices, eliminated some cruises and added stringent safety procedures:

- Masks required for all staff and visitors
- Rerouted guests through the museum’s back entrance
- Self-guided museum tours
- Boarding by party
- Fixed, socially distanced seating
- Passengers order from galley in writing—only visit to pay and pick up food
- No engine room or wheelchair tours
- Kids’ life preservers sanitized daily
- Heads and high touch surfaces sanitized hourly at minimum
- Passengers disembark by seating sections

While we rarely cancel cruises during a regular season, we set a minimum of 20 passengers and did cancel some cruises. We sold out most Saturdays.

In the end, the season was a success with 3,176 passengers cruising. By the end of the season we were scrambling for crew and were fortunate to engage two very talented individuals for the month of September (see interviews on pages 2 and 3).

The board felt that it was critical for the Katahdin to continue cruising as a symbol of constancy in this time of great uncertainty. We’ve received many comments from residents and visitors alike about how reassuring it has been to hear her whistle and see her once again traveling up Moosehead Lake.

After her winter’s rest, Kate will stand ready to cruise again next summer.

Stay safe and we hope we’ll see you then.

Liz McKeil, Executive Director



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# Moosehead Marine Museum

*The summer of 2020 found MMM in the middle of COVID-19. After much deliberation and planning, the board of directors decided that the Kate would indeed launch a shortened 2020 cruising season. Some staffing challenges ensued, as some of Kate's "regular" crew members were unable to cruise due to COVID-19. The end of summer found other crew members returning to high school and college. However, challenging times can yield unexpected benefits. The last month of the cruising season brought two new crew members who quickly became part of Kate's extended family.*

## GOOGLE REVIEW

"I'VE LIVED IN MAINE ALL MY LIFE, MY PARENTS HAVE A CAMP IN ROCKWOOD AND HAVE SEEN THE KATAHDIN MANY TIMES. IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME TO TAKE A CRUISE UNTIL TODAY. MY MOTHER AND I TOOK A 3 HOUR TRIP. IT WAS COLD AND WINDY, BUT THE CREW WAS WARM AND WELCOMING. THE LUNCH WAS GREAT, THE NARRATION WAS WONDERFUL AND THE MUSIC WAS FUN. EVEN THOUGH IT GOT VERY CHOPPY, ESPECIALLY IN SPENCER BAY, I WAS NEVER AFRAID. I KNEW THAT WE WERE IN SAFE AND CAPABLE HANDS. WE ENJOYED THE RIDE. WHETHER YOU ARE VISITING FROM OUT OF STATE OR LOCAL, YOU NEED TO TAKE A CRUISE AT LEAST ONCE."

- STEPHANIE G

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Meet Rheanna Sinnett, Deck Hand Extraordinaire

**Rheanna Sinnett** grew up in a military family and calls Rangeley, Maine her "home." After high school, Rheanna entered the United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD), where she was commissioned in the Navy and went through flight training. She spent 11 1/2 years on active duty, flying Seahawk helicopters out of Jacksonville, FL; Washington, DC; Guantanamo Bay; and San Diego. She is currently in the Reserves and spent one year in Germany with Army Special Forces, doing air planning and medivac support in Africa.

Rheanna returned to Maine in 2017, when she began launching her own houseboat rental business in Rangeley. Her business Just Add Water Floating Camps was born when Rheanna's dad located an old houseboat for sale in Baltimore, MD. Rheanna partnered with a brilliant boatbuilder in Falmouth and completely renovated the boat into a "floating piece of art." In 2018, the houseboat

*Nomad* began its first vacation rental season on Rangeley Lake. Rheanna soon added her second houseboat, *Room*. The boats were "wildly successful," she said. "They are beautiful boats in a beautiful setting... they were really popular in Rangeley almost immediately."

The year 2020 brought Rheanna to Greenville to explore the possibility of bringing her houseboat business to Moosehead Lake. When she was contacted about the opening for a deck hand on the *Katahdin*, Rheanna said she was "tickled." She found it a perfect opportunity to be on the water every day and learn Moosehead Lake. Rheanna is a Registered Maine Guide and licensed boat captain in Maine, but she admitted that the *Katahdin* is a "whole different animal" - one of her favorite memories from the summer was piloting and docking the *Kate* for the first time! Rheanna was grateful for the opportunity to join the crew and work aboard the

*Katahdin*. She found it a great way to close out her summer.

Rheanna hopes to bring her houseboat business to Moosehead Lake within the next couple of years. You can learn more about Rheanna and Just Add Water Floating Camps at [thefloatingnomad.com](http://thefloatingnomad.com).



Rheanna Sinnett aboard houseboat *Nomad*

## Meet Tom Theriault, Kate's Fall Engineer

**Tom Theriault** grew up in Rockwood and graduated from Greenville High School in 1981. He went on to study chemistry at Dartmouth College (NH) and graduated in 1985. Originally planning to go to medical school and become a doctor, Tom realized his love for the raw sciences (biology and chemistry), and he moved to California where he pursued a Ph.D. at Stanford University. After completing his post-doctoral work at Cal Tech in Pasadena, Tom, along with one of his professors, founded a fledgling bio-tech company, in which Tom was the scientist. He spent 22 years working for various companies, developing processes and methods for DNA diagnostics.

In 2004, Tom entered the field of oncology where he began developing immunology drugs—treatments for fighting cancer through the body's immune system. Tom continues to work as a consultant in the field.

In 2018, Tom returned to Rockwood when his dad passed away, to assist his mom with the family's property management business and to work on some of his dad's development projects.

Tom's dad originally built and operated the Moose-

head Motel in Rockwood, and as a kid, Tom remembers looking out at Moosehead Lake and watching the Katahdin go by in her logging heyday, often towing a boom of logs behind her. He noted that the Kate has held a special place in his heart for a long time.

Tom grew up with MMM Executive Director Liz McKeil and Board Member John Morrell, and he was pleased when both approached him this summer about the need on the Katahdin for a fall engineer. He had worked with smaller engines on his own boat and noticed that Kate's new engine made operations very straightforward and consistent.

Tom worked aboard the Kate for one month and noted that "it was one of the best jobs I ever had." One of his favorite days was when his mom came aboard the Katahdin during the last week of cruising and assisted the crew in blowing Kate's whistle! Another favorite memory was when Tom had the opportunity to assist with driving and docking the Kate. He said that while the Kate was a little different and bigger than he was used to, he loved the challenge. After his first season with the Kate, Tom said, "I fully enjoyed working with the crew."



Tom Theriault sporting his "Save the Kate" shirt from 1981



### "KEEP CALM AND RIDE THE KATAHDIN"...

WAS OUR MANTRA FOR THE 2020 CRUISING SEASON. SPECIAL THANKS TO ARTIST BONITA DOUGHTY FOR THIS RENDITION OF KATE WEARING A MASK. BONITA'S DESIGN WAS FEATURED ON SPECIAL 2020 SHIRTS WORN BY KATE'S CREW AND OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE GIFT SHOP.

# Moosehead Marine Museum

## They Say “History Repeats Itself”

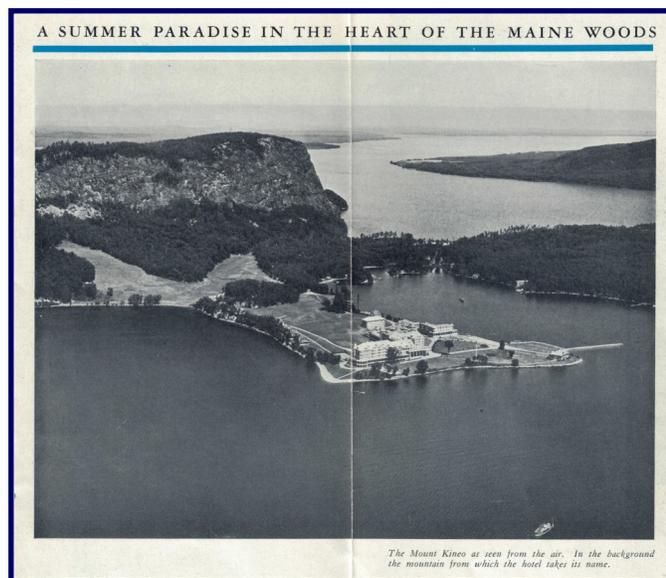
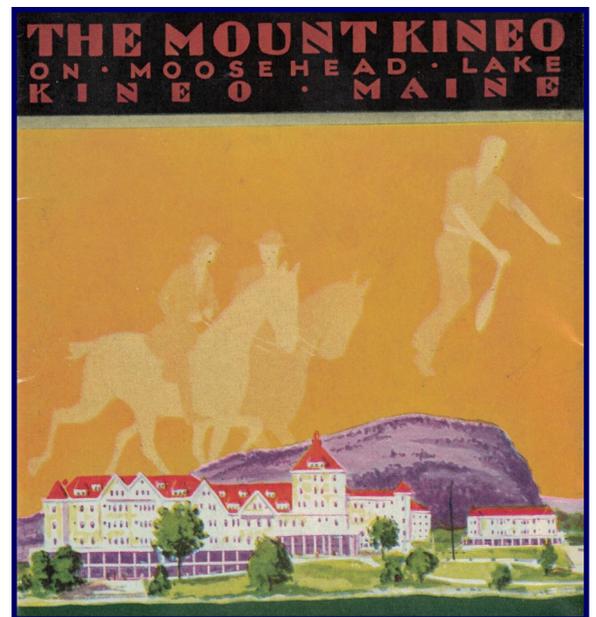
One hundred years ago found Moosehead Lake bustling with steamboats. Families fled the heat and crowds of the cities for the fresh air and beauty of northern New England. Greenville Junction was the offloading point for the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, where passengers ar-

rived from the cities and transferred to steamboats for trips to Kineo or other points on Moosehead Lake.

The summer of 2020 was also bustling as families and vacationers fled the more populated areas of the country for coronavirus-free Pis-

cataquis County. The Katahdin once again carried passengers on trips across Moosehead Lake, this time simply to cruise and enjoy the natural beauty and history of the region.

Here is what the travels may have looked like for vacationers 100 years ago.



## The State of the Kate

The crew from the Shipyard at Boothbay Harbor worked diligently aboard the Katahdin in 2019/2020 to fit her with a new Caterpillar C18 Marine engine and generator. They also fabricated new exhaust and engine cooling systems for Kate, as

well as repaired her propeller shaft.

Sea trials were held successfully in June and the 2020 cruising season commenced in July! Although shortened due to COVID-19 regulations, Kate's cruising season continued incident-free. The 2020 cruising

season ended September 26 on a triumphant note with a sold out crowd and a beautiful day for the annual Head of the Lake cruise.

The year 2020 also saw Kate undergo a successful insurance inspection.

## News from the East Cove

Moosehead Lake's East Cove has been home to the Katahdin for many years. It just so happens that the year 2020 brought significant improvements and changes to the Kate's surroundings.

The much-anticipated Dockside Inn & Tavern opened in early summer 2020 on Pritham Avenue. With the addition of Dockside's waterfront Row-

boat Joe's seating area and docking spaces for boats, it was good to see the East Cove bustling with activity.

Plans are underway for the beautiful new Crafts Landing & Park on Lakeview Street, spearheaded by the Moosehead Lake Region Economic Development Corporation (MLREDC). The property will have beautiful views of the Lake's East Cove and include

a walkway with benches, paved plaza with an informational kiosk, native shrubbery and flowers, and a new docking system.

Also new to Pritham Avenue is the Birch Bark Bakery & Breakfast, opened in fall 2020. With windows facing the East Cove and the Kate, it is certainly a breakfast with a view.

### Did You Know?

GREENVILLE, AS WE KNOW IT, WAS ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE "HASKELL PLANTATION." IN 1835, IT WAS INCORPORATED AND NAMED "CUBA." LATER, THERE WAS A VOTE TO CHANGE THE NAME TO "NEW SACO." FINALLY, THE TOWN WAS PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATURE AS "GREENVILLE."



Photo: Eric Leif Johnsen

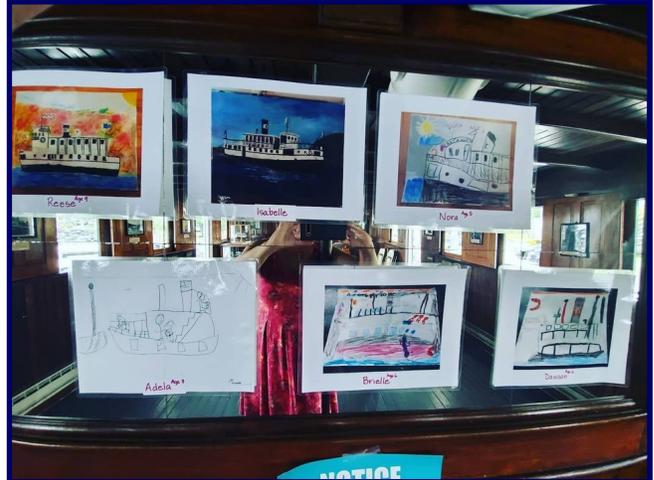
# Moosehead Marine Museum

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## 2020—The Season in Review



Many thanks to James Knightly of Seas the Knight Boat-building for creating and donating a display stand for our ship's wheel. The wheel came from an unnamed Great Northern Paper Company vessel. The gauges came from the Kate.



A Katahdin art show! This year, MMM asked kids to send us their renditions of the Kate. This artwork is proudly displayed on the upper deck of the Katahdin.



Crew member Chelsey Warman prepares a dessert in the galley. The Katahdin's galley serves sandwiches, salads, snacks, desserts, beer and wine.



Crew member Ray Giroux pilots the Katahdin while Rocky Rockwell entertains guests with the cruise narration.



Kate's crew practicing safety drills on the shakedown cruise.



Crew member Ray Giroux aboard the Katahdin for our shakedown cruise.



A beautiful day for a socially-distanced Sugar Island cruise.



Deck hand Rheanna Sinnett assists Captain Randy Gartley with piloting and landing the Kate.

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### Targeted Giving “Wish List”

Katahdin Decking Project—\$2,000,000

Museum Conservation—\$15,000

New Heaters for the Upper Deck—\$5,000

First Mate’s Club Educational Programming—\$3,500

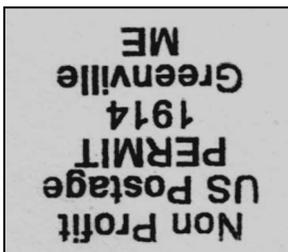
Museum Researcher—\$2,890

Dinghy for Rescue Operations—\$2,000

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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