

# Lake Huron Trip 2012

## Katie's Journal

### Sunday, July 15, 2012

My skipper is driving with us on the trip. We left the house this morning for Chicago at 7:45a.m. We met up with Bill, Lucas, and Mark in St. Louis at 9:00a.m. Bill drove with Lucas and Mark in their car. When we passed through Springfield, IL, we picked up Peter.

We ate lunch and then continued our trip up to Chicago. Mark had to pick up Courtney at the airport because she was flying in from Canada. My mom drove Michele and me to Grace Church, the church we would stay the next two nights in.

Once we got all of our stuff brought into the church, the eight of us went to the Columbia Yacht Club for a sail. We went on a forty-seven footer. Courtney and I both got to be helmsmen. We were out on the sailboat for about three and a half hours. Peter, Courtney and I beat our record from Swift Base when we were on a sailboat for over three hours with Wayne. Once we got back in the harbor, we took off the sails from the boat and folded (flaked) them. One of the captains'

son gave us a tour of a cargo ship that is now the yacht club. It was neat. We went up on the roof and got a great view of Chicago.

It was almost 12am before we had dinner. We went to a pizza place right by the church. Then we went back to the church and slept on



the second floor.

### Monday, July 16, 2012

This morning we had pack up all our stuff because they didn't want us leaving our stuff out during the day. We put our stuff back in the Pastor's office. We had bagels and granola bars for breakfast. I really hate bagels...

We all got in my car and drove to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. We spent the whole day there. Courtney, Peter, Lucas, and I went in flight simulators. They were really fun! Courtney and I beat the boys at shooting the bad guys. It was 3 to 0. We had lunch at the museum.



Once we left the museum, we went back to the church then walked to dinner. There was a yoga class going on in the basement and another program going on in the floor we slept on the night before. We had decided to clean the floor we had slept on for the church as a service project but we had to wait until the meeting was over. So we played cards on the first floor.

I gave everyone crew t-shirts from my ship - they liked them.

Mark and Lucas left right before we started cleaning to pick up Chelsea, Lucas' sister-Mark's daughter, from the airport. They also went out to dinner at the pizza place.

## Tuesday, July 17, 2012

This morning we got up extra early. We had bagels and granola bars for breakfast again. Mark picked up the Central Region Commodore-Mac-from the train station. We started our drive to Mackinac City, Michigan. We drove through Indiana. When we got to Michigan the time changed-it became an hour later.

For lunch we stopped at Camp Reqas which was a Lithuanian scout camp (I'm part Lithuanian). It



was kind of like a mini Swift but the lake was tiny.

Courtney, Chelsea, and I went out on a sailboat by ourselves. Peter and Lucas went out on a catamaran with some of the Lithuanian campers. Chelsea and Mark had to take their swim test there since they hadn't gone to Swift.

We wound up driving the whole day. We made it to Mackinac City. We spent the night at a campsite. Once we had set up our campsite everyone put on their crew t-shirts I gave them- I gave Mac one too. We went to dinner then we went shopping for food for the boat. I knew I was a picky eater but I hadn't realized I was that bad. Let's just say the menu was a little different when we left...

Courtney and I took showers since we had our stuff in the car.

## Wednesday, July 18, 2012



This morning everyone else took their showers. Our campsite was right on Lake Michigan. So Chelsea, Courtney, and I walked down to the lake and walked out in it. It was so pretty. We saw the last of the sunrise. You could see the Mackinac Bridge from where we were.



We had bagels for breakfast AGAIN...

Even though we didn't need to be at Port Mackinac until 10:00a.m., we left the camp early at 8:00a.m. to go to the harbor. It was only a half an hour drive to the port. We were at the port just before 8:45a.m. Because the port was so crowded, Wayne couldn't get into port until 10:30a.m. We unloaded the racing sails from the boat and then loaded our stuff. We finally left Port Mackinac at 12:45 when we were supposed to leave just after 10:00a.m. There had been a lot of work to do.

There wasn't enough wind to sail, and it was coming from the wrong direction to sail to our destination. But it was nice just motoring because everyone got to relearn how to use the tiller (the wheel on the forty-seven foot boat kind of threw some of us off). John helped us with steering.

It was a beautiful day even though it was a little chilly. The water was so clear too, you could see the bottom when it was like (John is an English teacher and hates the word like) 20 feet deep. Most of us took naps on deck. Wayne went over



some navigation stuff with me. I think that he went over navigation stuff with Peter, Lucas, and Courtney. He went over radio calling with Peter and Lucas.

We had wraps for lunch.

We should be into port Presque Isle around 10p.m. We are going to anchor out in the harbor.

We were supposed to get the photographer from Boys' Life today but we didn't. We'll get him towards the end of the trip.

Peter, Lucas, Courtney, and I started working on our requirements for rank. Since we are anchoring tonight we set up an anchor watch. Peter and Lucas have the first watch from when we anchor until 1a.m. Chelsea and Mark have from 1a.m. to 3a.m. and Courtney and I had the last and longest shift from 3a.m. until 6a.m. because Courtney wanted to watch the sunrise.

Today was Peter's birthday, he turned 17. We sang him happy birthday at dinner. We had leftover beef stew from the race. We had zebra cakes for dessert.

Apparently, I got sun burnt today... but I didn't.

Earlier today the Time Machine was trying to contact us because they had stopped to swim as there was no wind. They gave us there latitude and longitude and when we plotted it out on the



chart it seemed that they were behind us but they had left hours before us so they couldn't have been behind us. And we hadn't passed anyone. But we will see them when we anchor in the harbor.

Courtney and I figured out the toilet all by ourselves (it's complicated the first time you do it).

We got into the harbor just after sunset (the sun sets really late in Michigan). Wayne had us get out the anchor and flake the rode out on the dock so that it would go down smoothly. Wayne taught us that for every foot of water you multiply that number by seven to get the correct amount of rode to have. Peter tried to stop the line with his hands when it got to the right length of rode and burnt his hands really bad. You're supposed to pre-tie the line off to stop it on the cleat.

Peter, Lucas, and Bill are sleeping on the deck of the boat. Wayne and John are sleeping on the captain's beds in the back of the boat. Mom and Michele are sleeping on the side beds. Mark is sleeping on the floor on top of the extra sails. Courtney, Chelsea and I are sleeping in the V-Birth.

### Thursday, July 19, 2012

During our anchor watch this morning Courtney decided to wake up Wayne because the wind kept shifting and blowing us in circles. Wayne said it was going to be ok. I kept falling asleep during the anchor watch. It was really hard to stay awake until it started getting light out. The sunrise was really pretty. After our anchor watch Courtney and I went back to sleep for an hour and a half. When we were woken up, we were in port. We went to use the real flushing toilets. There was a rush to get out of there because there was going to be a storm.

Wayne wasn't going to put up any sails but Robert- the captain on the Time Machine- had talked him into it. We got out the jib and main and got them ready to be raised.

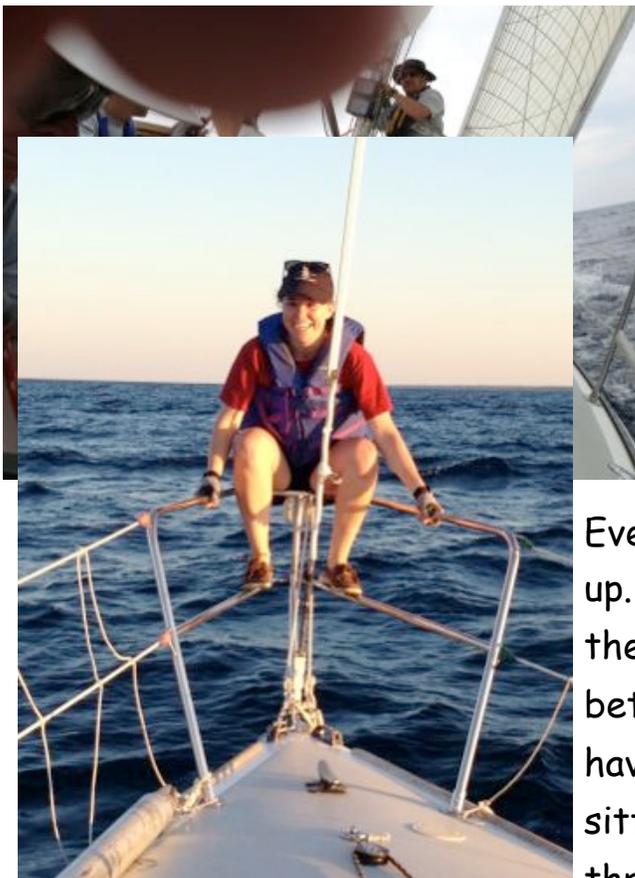
We had granola bars and oatmeal for breakfast while we were still in port.

Wayne had us put on our rain gear and life jackets. Just outside the port the swells were enormous. The wind was really strong too. We would go up a wave and go crashing down into the water once we went over the top. The bow had gone all the way under the water a couple times before we had even had the jib up yet. During the process of putting the jib up the two jib sheets flopped over my head and it scared me to death. Right after I had gotten them off from around my neck I started walking to the back of the boat when a huge

wave surged over the bow. I slipped and thought I might fall off of the boat. I managed to grab onto a line after I fell and pulled myself up. After those close calls I decided I was staying in the stern for the rest of the day.

I started getting seasick pretty early in the day. I only took one sea sickness pill this morning but should've taken two.

Everyone got seasick. But not everyone threw up. Wayne let me sit where he usually sits-at the top of the steps. It helped me feel better. We had wraps for lunch but I didn't have one. I had to move from where I was sitting and then I felt like I was going to throw up pretty soon and was trying to focus

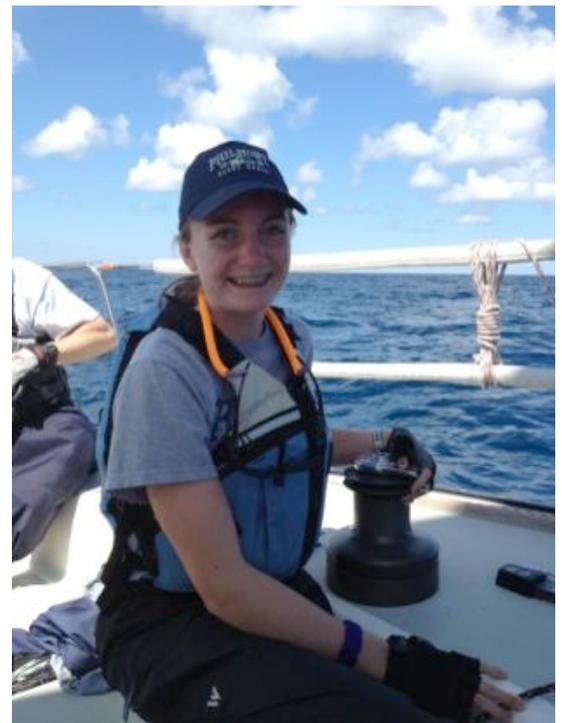


on the horizon but I couldn't stay awake sitting there and fell asleep. It worked because when I woke up I felt better.

The jib halyard broke while I was down below. I was trying to stay out of everybody's way after it broke. Chelsea got whacked in the face by the jib sheets.

The wind had gotten up to 20 knots and the swells were up to 10 feet.

I ended up not throwing up today. The water was really shallow in the channel going into port. When we got into port of Harrisville everyone felt better. We took showers and the youth started dinner. We were having grilled chicken. We talked to the crew from Time Machine while we were making dinner. Chelsea started out cooking then her mom called and I cooked the rest of it. Peter brought up all the food needed from the boat up to the grill. Courtney and John cut up the chicken, Lucas started the grill. When Chelsea was done talking to her mom she helped me decide when the chicken was done. But Peter mostly watched.



After dinner Robert from the Time Machine told us the story of when he had saved two guys' lives and had received a medal for it on their boat.

**Friday, July 20, 2012**

This morning we woke up at 7:30 a.m., but I had woken up earlier than that because of the squeaky sound from the boat rubbing against the fender on the dock.

The storm had passed because it was sunny and less windy. It was beautiful out like the first day. We put our sleeping stuff away and then put the sails back in the V-birth. We got to stay in port longer this morning. We had muffins and granola bars for breakfast. At breakfast, Wayne had us go over our roses and thorns of the last two days.

The photographer went with War Chant today after being with Time Machine for the last two days.

Before leaving port Wayne had us put on our raingear. We ended up taking it off since it was hot and the water wasn't visiting us like it was yesterday. We had to wear our life jackets though because we were sailing.

After yesterday, Wayne was thinking about not having the overnight sail that was originally planned. He talked to us about doing it and we were for it, though.

Wayne taught Courtney and me how to do the radio calls. We talked to Time Machine and War Chant about doing the overnight sail. Time Machine was for it, and once we finally reached War Chant so were they.

We got a call from Time Machine later on in the day and they had decided to go into a port and anchor in the harbor of Harbor Beach



before sun down so they weren't doing the all-nighter. So we called War Chant and asked them what if they still wanted to do the all-nighter and they said they did and we had to stick with them because we get the photographer tomorrow.

The youth started doing navigation reports today. That was something I hadn't done before and was kind of fun.

Wayne let us sit in the main. It was really neat, I had never done it before.

Wayne decided to put up the gennaker, which is the sail the size between a jib and a spinnaker. It was really cool. It made us go a lot faster. I had never been on a boat flying a gennaker so it was a new thing for me. We passed War Chant when we put it up. Garth (the photographer from Boys Life) got some pictures of us from that boat so that was cool.

At 2:00p.m. the land completely disappeared. It was like that until 3:30p.m. when we first started seeing the top of the thumb on the mitten.

Wayne helped me with some requirements for Ordinary.

The wind speed got up to 18 knots today at its peak and there were practically no white caps today.

Only two people got sick today.



**Saturday, July 21, 2012**

Last night's sailing in the dark was interesting. But it was easier than I thought it was going to be. We had two shifts- Wayne, Mark, Chelsea, Lucas, my mom, and I were the first shift, which was from sun set until 10:45p.m. John had Bill, Michele, Courtney, and Peter for the second shift, which was from 10:45p.m. until 12:15a.m. At 12:15a.m. the other shift people woke us up because Wayne wanted all of us to help with going into port and docking. We woke up Lucas but he never got up to help.

We flaked the main and put the cover over it. Docking went pretty well. War Chant was there when

we got there.

After we had gone to the bathroom and set up the beds it was 2:00a.m.

Courtney, Chelsea, and I woke up around 8:00a.m. we went to go and take

showers. Wayne wanted to leave by 10:00a.m. so that we could meet up with Time Machine. Garth came aboard as we were getting ready to leave.

We left port just at 10:00a.m. and Time Machine was passing the port right as we came out.

It was another beautiful day. The wind had died down a little from yesterday. Wayne wanted the wind to get up to about 8 knots but it wasn't quite that so we motored for a while then when it got there we put up the sails. We put up the genoa instead of the jib because the wind had died a little. The genoa comes back behind the



mast so it's a little tricky tacking and getting it to pass the mast without getting it caught on anything. But we didn't have that much trouble with it. It was prettier than the jib. Later on in the day we put up the spinnaker, which barely anyone had done before. The spinnaker is the biggest sail to go in front of the mast. It was the racing spinnaker too. We only had it up for about an hour. The youth and Bill got to try adjusting it. When it was up we went way off course so that it would fly.

We were supposed to pretend that Garth wasn't there. He took a lot of pictures. I think he got some good ones. Today the youth were in charge. The adults' excuse was that they had laryngitis and weren't allowed to talk...Chelsea, Courtney and I took turns being helmsman, navigator, and look out. Lucas and Peter took turns being the boatswains. It worked pretty well.

The adults made breakfast, lunch and dinner. For breakfast we had homemade Egg McMuffins. They were left over from the race. Wayne heated them up in a boiling pot of water. For Lunch we had wraps and sandwiches. We had lasagna for dinner with apples, carrots and celery.

We also worked on requirements. Lucas, Peter, Courtney, and I sat up on deck and did a lot of requirements. Now I have about half of my Ordinary requirements done. We worked on a couple of Quartermaster requirements too. I'm glad we got to work on requirements. Chelsea didn't work on any requirements with us because



she's almost 21 and didn't think it was worth it, I guess. She still did a lot of the things the rest of us did though.

Today we got to Port Huron, which was the end of our trip, but before going into port we stayed out and worked on some requirements. For one of our requirements for Ordinary, we had to supervise an anchor drop and weigh. We ended up doing it four times because all four of us had to do it. By the time we got to Courtney who was the last to do it we had it down flat.

Chelsea helped us with do them but she didn't supervise one. Where we



were doing it we could see Canada. But we couldn't do it in Canadian



waters.

John was at the helm through the channel. Once we got into Port Huron we tied off to the dock. The Griffin had its own reserved dock. Wayne told us that we would separate and be on different boats to sleep on. The girls slept on a boat called Blue Eyes. It was more of a cruising boat than a racing boat like the Griffin so it was a little different down below but for the most part they were similar. Wayne also decided to separate us because we had Garth so it would've been even more crowded if all of us had to sleep on the boat together. So it was just easier and more comfortable.

After we got situated, we took showers. Then we went out for ice cream. It was refreshing to eat after all that boat food...

We went to bed once we got back to the dock.

### Sunday, July 22, 2012

Time Machine left at 5a.m. this morning because they had to go down the St. Clair River farther to Time Machine's home. War Chant's crew that sailed it back left early this morning because they didn't have as long of a trip as us.

This morning we woke up around 8:00a.m. again. We walked to Cavis Grill for breakfast.

We didn't want to go home a day early because we were in Port Huron so Wayne agreed to take us out in the Griffin for

another day. He wanted to leave at 10:00a.m.

But since we had gone to breakfast and Wayne took us to the Yacht

Club for a tour(which was really neat). In the Yacht Club Lucas, Courtney, and I plotted a three legged course we had to execute for a requirement. So that took up some time too.

We didn't end up leaving until 12:30p.m. Jay (another Sea Scout leader) went with us today.

The wind was strong enough to put up sails but we just motored. At one point it had gotten up to 17

knots. But today was mostly a requirement day. We did a fire drill and three man overboard drills. Lucas, Courtney and I all practiced being



the helmsman, lookout and person getting the life jacket (the "man" overboard thing we used) out of the water during the times we practiced.

We also went swimming. When the boat stopped, Peter asked Courtney, and me to set the anchor. The five of us youth set the anchor all by ourselves without any adult intervention. It was freezing when you first jumped in but once you got used to it, it felt so good. It was really refreshing. Garth went swimming with us and took pictures. We had to use the buddy system and wear life jackets, but I understand why. We opened our eyes under the water and looked at the bottom it was so clear. And it didn't hurt opening them. Mark and Bill were the adults that went swimming with us (besides Garth-but he didn't really count). Mark was the

only adult who did do a flip off the pulpit. Mark and Lucas did back flips. Lucas was trying to climb up the bow, but I beat him

up. I think Michele got a video of it. It was fun.

There were a lot of sail boats out, first of all, because it was Sunday, and it was a perfect day for sailing.

We had lunch on the boat. Courtney and I prepared it so that we could get another requirement checked off.

After we got back in the boat and brought the anchor up, Wayne

let me be



helmsman all the way into port. Actually when we got into port Bill took over. Wayne had me drive along the "race track."

My mom got a picture of me in Canada. I had my feet in the Canadian water. Now I've been to another country.

The last time I checked the navigation report we had gone a total of 281 nautical miles all together from Port Mackinac to Port Huron. We spent a total of 114 hours on the boat. A new personal record!

Once we got back into port Wayne had us re-fold all the sails we used, except the spinnaker, on the grass. Then we unloaded the boat. We repacked the car. Then we went out for dinner. Wayne bribed me

with his ice cream for a copy of this journal. We took a crew picture when we got back. My mom and I went to go get T-shirts for our



family. But we were out of luck because it was 8:30p.m. on a Sunday night. Once we got back we finished repacking the car and took showers.

The rest of what was left of us sat on the dock by the Griffin and talked. Bill talked me into becoming the Area Three Boatswain and he wants Courtney to be the Boatswain's Mate.

Wayne, Courtney, Garth, and Jay left this evening after the group picture.



I had managed to keep my journal dry the whole time I was on the boat, but when I put my swim suit in my bag that was still damp I got my journal wet.

### Monday, July 23, 2012

We woke up at 5:30a.m. this morning. It's about a 10 hour drive home. It rained on the way home and we saw an awesome double rainbow. You could see every color in it really well.

We stayed together when we were driving. When we dropped off Peter at his house Chelsea went in her dad's car. We separated in St. Louis, MO.

I think I got sun burnt Thursday, the only day it was cloudy.

I had a lot of fun!!!! Thank you so much for letting us come! It was an amazing experience and you taught me a lot. I hope I can do it again next year.

Katie

Sea Scout, Apprentice

