Mackinac Island by boat: Magical!



Iulie Candler

The horse-drawn society on Mackinac Island appeals to rag sailors, who frequently take a dim view of the internal combustion engine---at least until they get becalmed.

The only transportation on

Mackinac Island is by bicycle or horse, as all automobiles are prohibited. That attracts power boaters as well as sailors, and anyone else who likes a beautiful, peaceful setting for a trip somewhere in time

The island's personality is defined by the presence of the immense, historic Grand Hotel, which reigns from a hilltop like a Victorian-era

"The Island is a fun place to come to," says Keith Bailey of Mason, Michigan. He visits it frequently aboard III Cheers, his 28-foot Carver

Riviera cruiser. He docks his boat for the season at Duncan's Bay Marina near Cheboygan, after moving it from Charlevoix to be closer to Mackinac

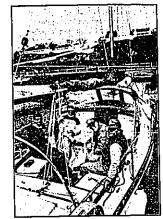
We talk at the state docks at the south end of the island, where Bailey and two friends are having Bloody Marys and chips before lunch. It's a weekend in mid May, and they're mixing their fun with scrubbing, waxing and other chores needed to get the boat ready for the season.
Says Bailey. "Twe had III Cheers

here for the past three weekends. It's so peaceful and quiet--no cars. It's a great place for biking and roller-blading, and my kids love the horses and the fort."

At a nearby slip, John and Mary Morgan of Rolling Meadows, Illinois, agree with Bailey about Mackinac Island. "You feel like you are in Disney World without being in Disney World," says John, and adds, "no

The Morgans keep their 28-foot Bayliner at Mackinaw City, near their cottage. It's a half-hour trip from there to Mackinac Island. "We bring our boat over here whenever we can get a slip" says John Morgan.

To do that in peak season you have to be an early bird. The island's only marina fills up like an urban



WHAT A VIEW!— With Fort Mackings behind them, a saliboat crew behind them, a sallboat relaxes at the Mackinac Marina, From left are Barrie Wilkes of Alma, Michigan, brother Paul, tather Jody, and friend Dan Plank.

freeway at rush hour.

"The season starts about mid-May," says Hugh Ravitz, owner of the Mackinac Outfitter and Marine Supply Company, only store of its kind on the island, "By then they have

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