

CBS Brings 3 Crews to Island for Yacht Race Coverage

By Leslie Rott

An eager CBS affiliate from Chicago, WBBM Channel 2, brought in a boat crew, a plane crew, and a technical crew on the Island to cover the 97th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac last weekend.

"It was a challenge and we wanted to do it," said Jay Foot, the executive producer. Aside from the obvious challenges of coming to an island without cars, he noted that a major challenge for his crew was deciding the best way to cover an event with such a broad scope and audience.

Mr. Foot has worked for the Chicago station since 1989 and does not recall any major television news crew coming to Mackinac for race coverage. He said that for news crews in Chicago, the yacht race is a big local news event, but most do not travel farther than the Chicago area to cover it.

"The race to Mackinac is a big story and I would consider this to be a big project," Mr. Foot said.

"This is one of the hardest shows to put together," said producer Cathleen Karp. She described filming here to be a "logistical nightmare" and said that the crew had multiple plans, trying to be ready for anything, especially since no one knew



Television reporter Mark Malone on the patio of Iroquois Hotel.

how long the race would last. A month of planning beforehand went into doing the two-day shoot on Mackinac. Although they had filmed several features in Chicago, "This weekend was the big execution weekend," Mr. Foot said.

The station sent Ms. Karp to Mackinac Island two weeks before the race to determine the best places to shoot footage. Mr. Foot said that he was impressed by the warm reception the crews received from Island officials and local residents.

Just before arriving on the Island, Mr. Foot told the *Town Crier* that he and his crew were "pumped and excited" to be coming, as only one of them had ever been to Mackinac before.

"It's beautiful and it's not your typical island experience," he said. "Everything is clean and pretty and well kept."

Despite logistical worries and then a slow start to the race, Ms. Karp said that the decision to come film on the Island was "absolutely worth it."

"The Chicago Yacht Club and

the people of this Island have been unbelievably helpful," she said. "It's enchanting and I love the fact that they've worked so hard to preserve antiquity."

She described the Island as one of life's perfect kind of places. "I will definitely, definitely come back."

Aside from the production team stationed on the Island, WBBM also had a team on the water to follow the race and one

stationed at Navy Pier, in Chicago.

The one-hour commemorative segment will feature the Island, the Mackinac Bridge, and the race. It will be shown on WBBM Saturday, July 30, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, July 31, at 11:05 p.m. It is also scheduled to run locally on Saturday, August 13, from 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Channel 9/10 from Traverse City/Cadillac.

Commodore Huthwaite Hosts Yacht Club Dinner



Mackinac Island Yacht Club Commodore Bart Huthwaite and his wife, Nina, hosted a commodore's dinner Friday, July 15, at which they were toasted by the membership. The club, through the Mackinac Boating Heritage Foundation, is sponsoring the restoration of *Bernida*, the first winner in the Bayview Yacht Club's race to Mackinac Island in 1925.



Kid Rock and a companion enjoy a luncheon on Mackinac Island Monday.

Detroit Rocker Kid Rock Makes Island Visit on Yacht

Following a concert in Boyne City, music superstar Kid Rock visited Mackinac Island Monday, July 17, where he said he enjoyed several childhood vacations.

"I used to love coming up here," he said. "I would fill up on Mountain Dew and fudge and just be on a buzz

all day."

He had heard about the Chicago-to-Mackinac race and came over on his own yacht just to sit and relax.

"This is the most beautiful spot on Earth," he said. "I was in Morocco, and that didn't have anything on this place."

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Fans Share Excitement of New Book

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read them a thousand times. It's all her fault," she said, pointing at Ms. Burke.

"I addicted her," Ms. Burke said. "I got addicted in seventh grade when my teacher read the first book to us, but she read too slow, so I got the book myself and read it."

The two had their own ideas of what might happen in the book as well.

"Ron better not die. He's my favorite character," said Ms. Pettit. "I love how he's hilarious - he's the comic relief. But I do think one of the Weasley's might die. Or Dumbledore might die."

Ms. Burke chose to take a slightly more optimistic view of the events in the soon-to-be released book. "Ginny and Harry might get together, that's what I hope."

Jordan Dobbs of Chicago was on the Island for the weekend, and wanted to make sure that she didn't miss out on getting a copy the first minute possible.

"I read them all," she said. "They're very interesting and

intriguing. My favorite character is Hermione, because she's brainy and brave."

Hermione was a beloved character at the gathering, with Ms. Bauman and Ms. Flatt both citing her as a favorite. Ms. Flatt enjoyed comparing the atmosphere on the Island with the book's reception in her hometown of London.

"There's excitement in England, too, but I think it's a bit more restrained. Some children get really into it, and they do have all the shops open at midnight," said Ms. Flatt.

But it wasn't just the fans who were getting into a magical spirit late Friday night. Staff at The Island Bookstore were also having fun, dressing up as characters from the book and in general wizarding gear.

"The whole staff has been so excited, and we've really gotten into it," said Mary Jane Barnwell, owner of The Island Bookstore.

"It was an awesome gathering of Harry Potter fans," said Ms. Tomac after the party had ended. "It was a great outpouring of enthusiasm. I really just had fun selling the book."