



Research Crew Takes on Straits Mission

**Continued from page 9*

worked with the Cousteau film crew and has been offered a job with the crew as an underwater photographer. He is planning on joining the Cousteau team soon.

Authorized by the Secretary of the Navy, cadets wear Navy uniforms that are marked with sea cadet insignia.

Three cadets are stationed on the ship's bridge at all times, while two work in the engine room and one is on roving watch. Soundings are performed while the ship is

At left: From the bridge of the *Pride of Michigan*, Captain Luke Clyburn (right) of the Great Lakes Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and Lieutenant Kathy Trax are about to take more soundings of the underwater terrain east of Mackinac Island August 16. The ship's mascot is a Newfoundland dog named Molly. The breed is known for its water rescue abilities.



The ship's cook, Rich Cover, prepares 100 meals a day from this galley with the help of Jeff Water (not pictured). Both men volunteer for the cruise and each has a son participating in the program. Two cadets also help with meal preparations.

underway. All of the cadets bunk in one large room on the main deck and are scheduled on shifts around the clock.

After leaving Mackinac Island Friday, the crew planned practice dives while making their way back to the

Clinton River.

"Where else can a 13-year-old learn how to operate two diesel engines?" asks Matt Konen of Shelby Township, who plans to fly helicopters for the Coast Guard. "I love this program."

Comedian Stu Stuart To Host Belgian Beer Tours

By Eric Fish

From May to October, Stu Stuart performs stand-up comedy on Mackinac Island, but this fall, he will embark on a new adventure conducting beer tours in Belgium through his new touring company, "Belgian Beer Me!"

Although Belgium is less than 12,000 square miles and could fit inside the state of Michigan, the country produces more than 500 varieties of beer at 125 breweries. It was on a Belgian beer tour years ago that Mr. Stuart became interested in the country's specialty beverages and came up with the idea to form his own independent tour company.

"My tours are really about spreading the word about beers I like," he said. "We're going to

see some really cool, unique breweries that produce arguably the world's best beers."

Much of the logistics for Mr. Stuart's new business have been planned out this summer in between regular comedy stints at the Lilac Tree Hotel.

Participants will need to provide their own air transportation to Europe for the tours. They'll then meet with Mr. Stuart for 4- to 10-day motor coach tours of breweries, beer cafes, restaurants, and beer museums. A little education on the history and culture of Belgian beer is included.

Unlike those in the United States, different ingredients and fermentation techniques allow Belgian beer to get better with time. Belgian brewers, Mr. Stuart said, employ different strains of yeast, sugars, spices, and fruits in the ales, in addition to using spontaneous fermenta-

tion techniques.

"I've never had a bad Belgian beer," Mr. Stuart notes with confidence.

A heavy "head" on poured beer is common there, and flavors are enhanced as the beer becomes warmer.

On Mackinac Island, he said, the Ice House, Mary's Bistro, and the Island House all carry select Belgian beers.

"Belgian beers are starting to become trendy," Mr. Stuart said. "They're still sub-mainstream, but I think in the next five years, you're going to see Belgian beer consumption gaining popularity."

Mr. Stuart has always had an interest in the romanticism, tradition, and history behind beer brewing.

"I've been involved with beer since I was a child," he laughed.

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