

# Skippers, Crews Enjoy 26th Annual Around the Island Regatta

By Eric Fish

"Ready about. Break."

Skipper Dave Rowe barked the nautical command on board his yacht, *Wild Honey*, and watched as his crew worked hard to alter the sail and stay on course in the 26th annual Fourth of July yacht race around the Island Sunday, July 1.

Because it's impossible to sail a yacht directly into the wind, a series of zigzags must be made by adjusting the sail windward and changing tack, also known as coming about.

Mr. Rowe and his crew, which consisted of Tourism Bureau Director Mary McGuire Slevin, her husband, John, Bob Ransom, *Town Crier* reporter Sean Ely and this reporter, and Mr. Rowe's golden retrievers, Katie and Livvy, finished in eighth place out of 14 boats with a race time of three hours, 57 minutes.

But the beautiful July weath-



Skipper Dave Rowe takes his boat, *Wild Honey*, around the Island in the 26th annual Fourth of July Regatta. Mr. Rowe and his crew finished in last place, but had a good time.

er and the joy of being aboard a sailboat and away from the hus-

tle and bustle of the working world was enough for Mr.

Rowe and crew to enjoy the afternoon on the water, regardless of the finish.

"This is fun," Mr. Rowe repeated throughout the race. "What a beautiful day."

Mr. Rowe, the rear commodore of the Mackinac Island Yacht Club, has been sailing for about 35 years. His boat, *Wild Honey*, is named after a song by the Beach Boys. He competes

annually in the Fourth of July Regatta and the Mackinac to Manitoulin race.

Behind Mackinac Island the winds can be fickle, and finding the wind close to shore or out in the lake can win or lose a race.

"The best air is a steady air that's strong enough to drive your boat, but not so strong that it's going to knock you," said Mr. Ransom, the secretary at the yacht club.

Joining *Wild Honey* in the

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## Boating Dogs Katie, Livvy Sail in Regatta

### Captain's Pets Began Sailing at 9 Weeks Old

There are two things that Dave Rowe won't sail without, Livvy and Katie, his two golden retriever dogs. While they

can't adjust the sails, steer the boat, or contribute to the conversation, they provide companionship and share the experience.

"They grew up on the boat," Mr. Rowe said, "since they were nine weeks old."

Livvy is eight, Katie is 10, and, although they are not related, they did come from the same breeder and have taken a liking to sailing with their owner. Past adventures include numerous crossings of Lake Michigan to Wisconsin and cruising the North Channel to Canada.

Although the dogs can regularly be found out on the deck basking in the sunlight with the other sailors, they'll occasionally hop down into the boat's living quarters to cool off.

"Growing up on a boat, they have to be responsible," Mr. Rowe said, noting the good behavior of the animals.

"Neither one is dominant," Mr. Rowe said of his pets. "If one wants to sit down, the other one will get up and let her sit down, and vice versa."



David Rowe's dogs, Katie (left) and Livvy, are frequent companions on the water.

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