

# Sam Kovalak of Mackinac Wins Round the Island Race

## Club's Second Race Set for July 22

By Kerri Jo Molitor

Mackinac Island Yacht Club's annual Round the Island Race was a success Sunday, July 5, says yacht club commodore David Rowe. The day was sunny, the air temperature was perfect, and the winds were 15 to 20 knots. Mr. Rowe called the day "ideal" for the 10 boats racing around Mackinac Island.

In first place was Mackinac Island resident Sam Kovalak with his boat *Saint Barbara*. Mr. Kovalak spent five years building the boat, Mr. Rowe said, which he also designed himself. Second place went to Leonard Field on *Outrageous*. Mr. Field is from Tawas and has won this race numerous times, Mr. Rowe said.

The third place boat, *The Oz*, was sailed by Jim Ozenberger, a deputy ranger with the Hiawatha National Forest in St. Ignace. This year is Mr. Ozenberger's first year in the race.

Mark Neuman, a physician from Flint, took fourth place with the *Family Dock*.

Local residents took both fifth and sixth places, with Toby Murray on the *Island Girl* in fifth and Mark Chambers on the *Windermere* in sixth. In seventh place on *Mahdi* was Greg Steimel and on the boat *Wild Honey*, Mr. Rowe took eighth place.

Mike Evelyn took ninth place on *Snow Goose*. The last contestant, Matt Myers, was unable to complete the race on his boat *Bob Sled* because of a blown-out sail.

The Mackinac Island Yacht Club will host another Round the Island Race for the Chicago/Mackinac fleet of 365 boats Wednesday, July 22.

The Mackinac to Manitoulin Race will start Thursday, July 23, and will span about 160 miles. About 29 boats are registered so far, but more are expected, Mr. Rowe said.

The next race will be the Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac starting Saturday, July 18.



Boat owner Greg Steimel (seated, left) took seventh place in the Round the Island Race Sunday, July 5. On the boat with him are Jeff Patton (standing behind sail), Bart Huthwaite, Jr. (middle) and P.J. Pulte (right). (Photographs courtesy of Phil Kesler)

## Redesigned Mackinaw City Marina To Open Saturday

### Shipboard Concert To Be Among Activities

By Michael Ayala

The St. Ignace News

Straits State Harbor will be open for public tours Saturday, July 18, at 4 p.m. An official dedication will take place two hours later.

The marina, at 409 South Huron Street in Mackinaw City, has 130 slips and 174 feet of broadside dockage. It will be managed by eight people and open to the public seven days a week. A dog run, trash and recycle area, and grilling area will also be available. Eight wind turbines generate 60% of its electrical needs.

The comfort station is designed to capture maximum sunlight, reducing the need for electrical lighting. Ceiling skylights are equipped with solar light tubes that gather, focus, and amplify sunlight. Light-colored paint is used on the inside of the building to maximize the amount of sunlight refracted throughout.

The harbor is equipped with shower facilities that use low flow shower heads, ultra low flush urinals, and light sensors that turn lights on when people enter a room and turn them off when they leave.

The countertops and windowsills have been constructed from ash trees that were killed by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. The furniture and furnishings have been made from recycled materials, as well.

The new state facility will complement existing marinas in Mackinaw City, said Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson. It will give visitors more opportunities for dockage and accommodate boaters who sail north to visit Mackinac Island but can't get moorage there.

The harbor will be ready for use after the ribbon-cutting ceremony Saturday, Mr. Olson said. Slip rental will likely be available the week after the ceremony.

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The winning boat, *Saint Barbara*, in the Mackinac Island Yacht Club's Round the Island Race was sailed by Mackinac Island resident Sam Kovalak. The boat was custom designed and built by Mr. Kovalak.

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