

## Chicago to Mackinac Race at St. Helena

Friday July 17 through Tuesday July 21, 2009

St. Helena Light Station is a great place to view the 101st running of the sailboats from the Windy City to Mackinac Island. A special "race watching weekend" has been set up by the GLLKA for people interested in watching the sailboats as they race past the lighthouse on the final leg of their journey.

The weekend will start in Mackinaw City where you will board the U.S. Coast Guard approved vessel, Cake & Ice Cream, and travel to St. Helena Island the afternoon of Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, leaving Mackinaw City at 2:30 P.M. The evening will be spent touring the light station and enjoying a bon fire on the beach.

Saturday, the official start of "The Mac" in Chicago, will find you enjoying the natural environment of St. Helena - walking around the island, playing horseshoes, and viewing wild flowers and a variety of birds, including the Bald Eagle. If the wind is strong, by Sunday morning, the sailors should have their colorful spinnaker sails up and the last leg of the race is on. From

the shores of St. Helena, you can see and photograph the sailboats as they race to the other island. Monday should be a great viewing day also. Come Tuesday afternoon, July 21<sup>st</sup>, you will depart St. Helena for Mackinaw City. Hopefully, the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinac will have passed by St. Helena, signaling the last sailboat has finished the race.

While you are on St. Helena, the keepers will prepare three meals a day for you and a snack each evening. Meals will be reminiscence of the food served by the lighthouse keepers when they lived on the island with their families at the turn of the twentieth century. You will be asked to help with some of the lighthouse daily chores like pumping and carrying water, washing your dishes, sweeping the dwelling, and writing in the daily journal.

Creature comforts include clean latrines and sun-warmed three gallon shower bags. The lighthouse has 4 bedrooms. The two small bedrooms each have a double bed. The two large bedrooms have one double bed and two twin beds

each. The GLLKA will provide all bedding, including pillows, sheets, and blankets.

The fee for 5 days and 4 nights, including food and boat transportation will be \$400.00 per person, double occupancy. Or you can rent the whole site for \$3,000 and invite your friends to join you. The maximum number of people is 12.

St. Helena Island is drug and alcohol free. Tobacco use is only allowed at the fire ring.

Naturally, GLLKA cannot accept responsibility for a wet, rainy weekend, foggy weather, or inclement weather that would prevent the sailboats from arriving in a timely manner.

Experience the Miracle of the Straits and book a bedroom today.

For more information, call the GLLKA office at 231-436-5580, Monday to Friday 9 AM to 4 PM, or e-mail at [info@gllka.com](mailto:info@gllka.com).



*Watching the colorful sailboats make their way through the Straits of Mackinac off St. Helena Island is a unique and rare experience*