

# Fourth of July Trip to Oak Island

Leaders: Katie Katzner and Deb Strike

Agenda: Launch Red Cliff at 10am to Group Campsite A on Oak Island

Spend the weekend relaxing and paddling at a leisurely pace. Day trips to Raspberry Light House and Manitou Fish Camp.



For me this was my first time leading and the first time going on a trip without Aaron. It involved a lot more planning and thoughtfulness as to what to bring. I am so glad I did this and found it easy to do.



Deb and I pre-decided this was an intro to the Apostles trip and wanted to offer a laid back experience. We split the leadership roles by each of us picking a day trip we wanted to lead and a travel day. It was nice to share the responsibilities and help each other out. We also lucked out as to having a knowledgeable group who offered navigation practice by identifying the islands and the history. As a leader it didn't require official training. Instead it required some knowledge of the area and a desire to have a great time. We set up some basic guidelines based off of the ISK and the national park service rules and regulations.

As we all know you can plan all you want, but the lake says differently. This weekend the weather was in our favor. The group was successful in launching by 10am and we made it to Oak in time for lunch. I have never been to this campsite before, so after a quick lunch I made my way up and knew exactly where to put my tent for the weekend. The penthouse view over the lake. The first day was setting up camp. Some of us decided to go for a hike up and down the island hill paths, while others relaxed.



Friday night for me was a sleepless night as my sleeping pad had a leak. I did wake up to another perfect day of paddling. So Deb and I decided to divide into two groups so I could go get my sleeping pad. Deb's group headed to Raspberry Island to tour the light house and play croquet on the beach. Clarence volunteered to come back with me and we had a wonderful paddle back to Red Cliff. We were able to find the ship wreck! At shore the golf cart driver had a hard time believing me, we were there for the sleeping pad and not the other forgotten items.

The way back to Oak Island provided the best navigation and leadership practice. The sailboats began to slowly sail on a slow wind day. They were between Point Detour and Oak Island. We needed to get across. Using prior knowledge and experience we decided the best was to go through them and change of direction as needed.

## Trip Report for Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from Clarence



Another beautiful sunny day with mild winds, 5 knots or less. We left camp around 9:30AM and headed east around Oak Island for Manitou Fish Camp. First thing we did when we arrived was to have lunch on the dock. After lunch the Park volunteer, Denise, gave us a history and tour of the fish camp which operated from the 1930's-50's. We also learned of a stand of hemlocks near the camp which were not clear cut during the 19th-20th centuries.

After lunch we paddled west to Oak Island and explored a very interesting sea cave. In the back left corner of the cave, is an

entrance (not enough clearance for me to paddle into) to an area that opens to the sky above, approximately 20-25 feet in diameter.

We continued counterclockwise around the island to campsite 6. This is where a trail leads to an overlook, which faces north with views east and west. The group split at this point. Four of us hiked to the overlook, Kevin remained with the boats and napped/meditated on the meaning of being one with the water, and the remaining four paddled back to our camp. When we arrived at

the overlook, we had a spirited discussion about which island was which.

None of us had a compass or a proper map, but we persevered and I think correctly named all the visible islands.

We arrived back at camp just before 6:00PM - 13 miles paddling and 4 miles hiking. A long, but very enjoyable day. The evening was capped off with a current events discussion by a few of us, while the rest went down to the beach to watch the sun disappear into Lake Superior.

Clarence



Each day ended with fellowship over the campfire, sunsets on the beach and smiles on our face.  
~Katie Katzner

