

# Sailing Adventure

by Chris Chism

Here in Traverse City with its immediate access to Lake Michigan we live among some of the most pristine and beautiful freshwater locations in the world. While many people admire the area for its elegant beauty, what sets it apart is its diversity of creeks, rivers and lakes which offers varied forms of recreation especially canoeing, kayaking, boating and my personal favorite; sailing.

Sea scouts is an organization that is devoted to teaching young adults, male and female how to enjoy canoeing, kayaking, boating, and sailing in a safe and adventurous fashion. Sea Scouts lets its members gain the skills necessary through applied training and hands-on experience.

This summer the sea scouts had the opportunity to crew aboard a 55 foot sailboat owned by Dr. Wess Schulz. While onboard we learned and practiced rigging the sails, stowing gear, preparing the various lines and other things needed before the boat could even get underway. Having spent several summers learning small boat sailing with TACS (Traverse Area Community Sailing), I got to use the skills I learned at TACS and apply them to a larger scale boat on major body of water.

When we got underway the Sea Scouts quickly discovered that the wind could be very powerful because it was quite gusty and made for an eventful day. On board, each person had a duty; two people were in charge of the jib, another was responsible for getting updates on the weather, i.e. wind speed, wind direction, ship speed, etc., and other sea scouts helped out with various duties to keep the lines and sails in trim. All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed the trip and had a lot of fun. We also learned new things that only sailing a ship that size on large body of water could teach you. We took with us hands-on experience and team work that enabled us to work together as a more effective group.

## SAILING ON THE CATAMARAN

Ship 100 had a chance this summer to sail on a Catamaran on West Bay.

A Catamaran is a double hulled boat tied to a frame . Catamarans were originated in Polynesia as fishing boats and simple, swift sailboats that helped the Polynesians sail from one island to another. They are lighter, stable and faster. Catamarans handle better in shallow water. This boat was built with mahogany wood that was painted white. The boards are tied together, modeled after the traditional Polynesian design. The Sea Scout had to be ready to crew this boat. We put up and took down the sails, furling them to secure them. We all got a turn at taking the helm and navigated through West Bay. We also got to go out on the bow which is designed as a trampoline. This is a great place to relax and get wet. Sailing on the Catamaran gave us a chance to compare different types of boats and how they handle as we also got to experience a racing yacht and a replica Schooner. We are so glad to have these opportunities and to have experienced sailors willing to let us learn to sail. We are looking forward to more sailing experiences next summer and encourage others to join our Scout Venturing group.