

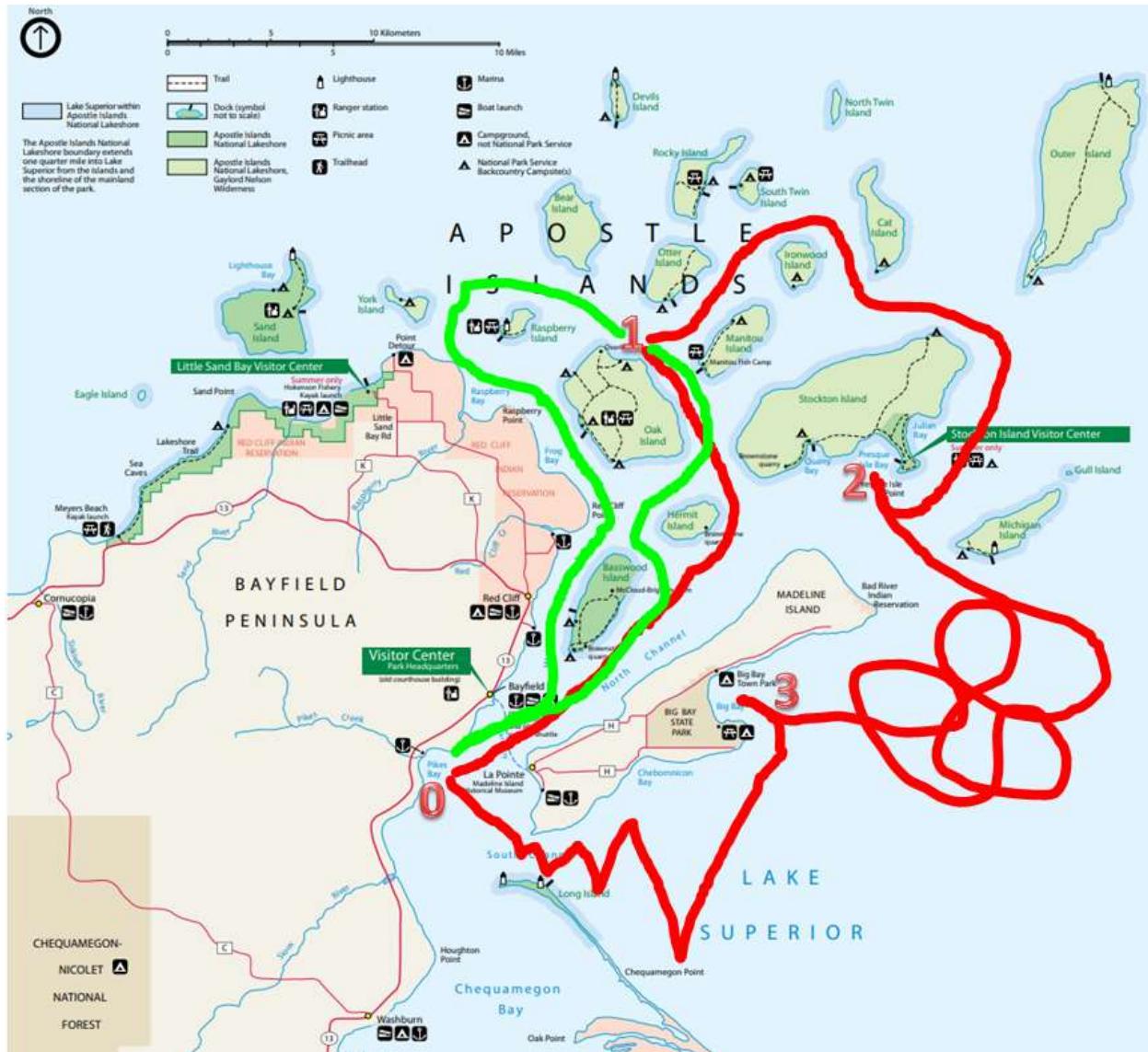
Summer 2020 – Apostle Islands

More trips are documented at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yf9rpXCMjBzrMnfyBDakTzFkOfKu5sjW/view?usp=sharing>

This is a brief summary of two trips to the Apostle Islands on Lake Superior in summer of 2020. Both trips originated at the Pikes Bay Marina just south of Bayfield, WI.

More explanation of the map below is in the following pages.



FIRST TRIP: June 8 - June 11 - Chartered a Jeanneau 33 from [Superior Charters](#)

Corrie and I went along with Teresa, our friend from Lake Manawa Sailing Club. This was my first bareboat charter after passing ASA104. It was helpful to have an experienced sailor along with us. We hired a captain for the first half day to get oriented on the boat and discuss our plans. As I mentioned,

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the outboard on the dinghy was made as an unintentional offering to Neptune as it disappeared on the first day when we had good winds and were cruising along at 8 knots. We slept aboard the night before and then proceeded as follows (see the red line and numbered anchorages on the map).

- Day 1 - practice with captain and then sailed half way and then motored to an anchorage on the north side of Oak Island. Winds were out of the Southeast so we were protected, but the anchorage was rolly with swells out of the north so it was not comfortable sleeping.
- Day 2 – sailed northeast and then south between Ironwood and Cat islands before going further east and then south, finally pulling into anchor at Presque Isle Bay. Took the dinghy in and hiked around the end of the peninsula.
- Day 3 – sailed southeast through Madeline and Michigan islands and then wandered around the open lake for awhile before heading into Big Bay on the east side of Madeline Island to anchor.
- Day 4 – beat our way with wind on the nose as we headed back west towards the marina. Right after we made it back between Madeline and Long islands, we had to drop sails since the wind increased dramatically since the remains of tropical storm Cristobal were coming through. Had to throttle up to make headway as we returned to Pikes Bay.

Trip 2: August 7 – 9: Sailing class through [Northern Breezes](#) on Hunter 34

My friend Jed was going to take the ASA 103 and 104 class with his wife, but she was unavailable on short notice and he needed someone else to go in order to proceed with the trip. I figured it was a good opportunity to get more training and repetition with a different boat and instructor. I was impressed with the quality of instruction through [Northern Breezes Sailing](#). We did quite a bit of docking, practicing maneuvers while staying close to Pikes Bay. We stayed at the slip for 2 of the 3 nights. On that Friday we sailed through the North Channel between Basswood and Madeline islands and anchored on the north side of Oak Island (same as the first night from the prior trip). We took the dinghy in and hiked to a look out with a great view north. This time it was not near as rolly. We had a lightning storm that night but were well protected from winds out of the south. On Saturday, we cruised west around Raspberry Island before coming south and then east by Raspberry Bay and then headed back to Pikes Bay Marina. The path for this trip is illustrated by the green line on the map above.

Tips, thoughts, and considerations after reflecting back on the two trips

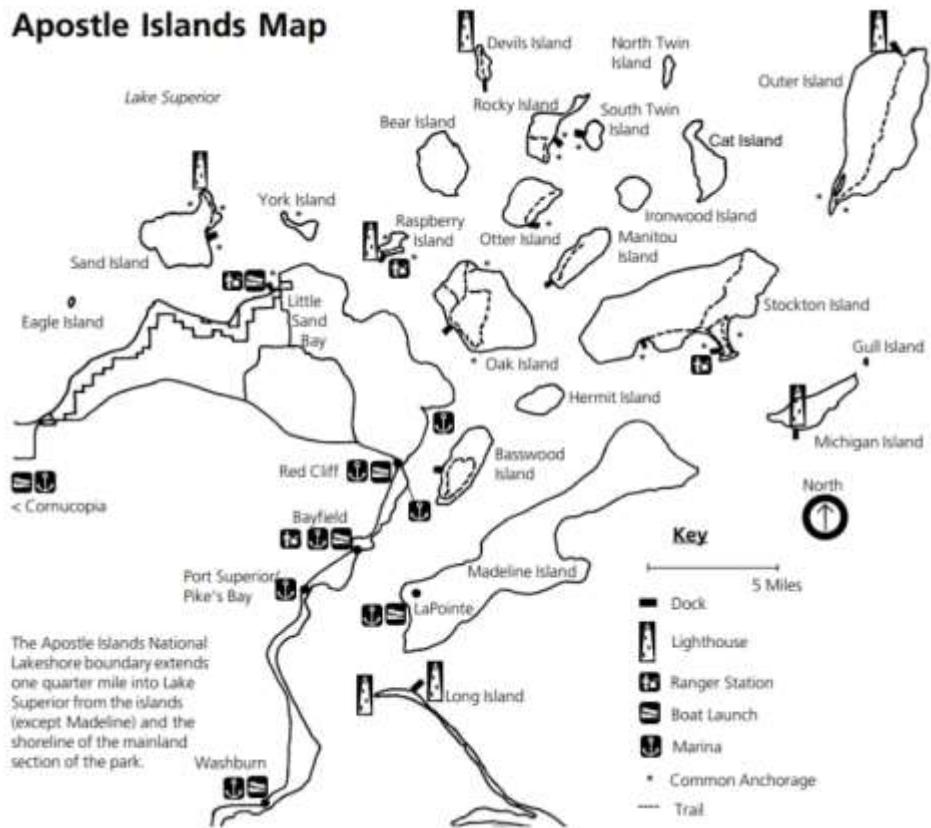
- Early June can be cold. The water makes the weather on the lake trail the normal seasons. There's a reason for the early season discounts. We were also the only boat in all of the anchorages.
- August was warm, and there were a lot more boats out. This time around there were 11 other boats in the anchorage at Oak Island.
- Superior Charters boats are in good shape, where the Northern Breezes boats appeared to be a bit more tired.
- Madeline Island is the only populated island of the group, with a busy ferry service to watch out for when sailing
- For hiking, I was glad we brought head nets due to the mosquitos

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- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore info
 - Homepage: <https://www.nps.gov/apis/index.htm>
 - Maps: <https://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/maps.htm>
 - Boating guide:
 - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/boating-in-apostle-islands-national-lakeshore.htm>
 - https://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/upload/Boaters_guide.pdf
- Suggested anchorages based on wind direction:
<http://www.bayfieldyachtclub.org/Anchorages>
- Docks on the islands tend to be shallow – there's a chart in the boating guide from NPS listed above
- Cruising Guides (all of these have good info on anchorages, marinas, etc)
 - Sailing Adventures in the Apostle Islands by Lawrence Newman
 - Apostle Islands Water Trips by John C. Frank (had to purchase this through Superior Charters)
 - Superior Way by Bonnie Dahl
- In addition to Pikes Bay Marina, there's a marina in Bayfield and another one on Madeline Island. I think they all have some transient slips but you would want to call and check. We drove in coming east from Duluth and saw other marinas along the way. I included an NPS map on the next page showing some additional marinas.
- For charts, you'll want to get NOAA 14973. The boats I was on had this and I had it downloaded for use in OpenCPN. You can also get it at <https://www.charts.noaa.gov/PDFs/14973.pdf>
- Restaurants – we got takeout from:
 - Maggie's in Bayfield. Recommend any of their whitefish meals since that is local fare and was excellent
 - Coco Bakery in Washburn (one town south) was great for breakfast on first day before heading out
- For the first trip, we brought provisions with us. For the class, we provisioned at Hansen's IGA, a small but sufficient grocery store in Washburn.
- Other than Madeline Island, services are sparse or nonexistent. There are some camping facilities on the uninhabited islands and I think they require reservations. More info is at <https://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/camping.htm>

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Apostle Islands Map



Here are a few photos from the trips (mostly from the first trip)



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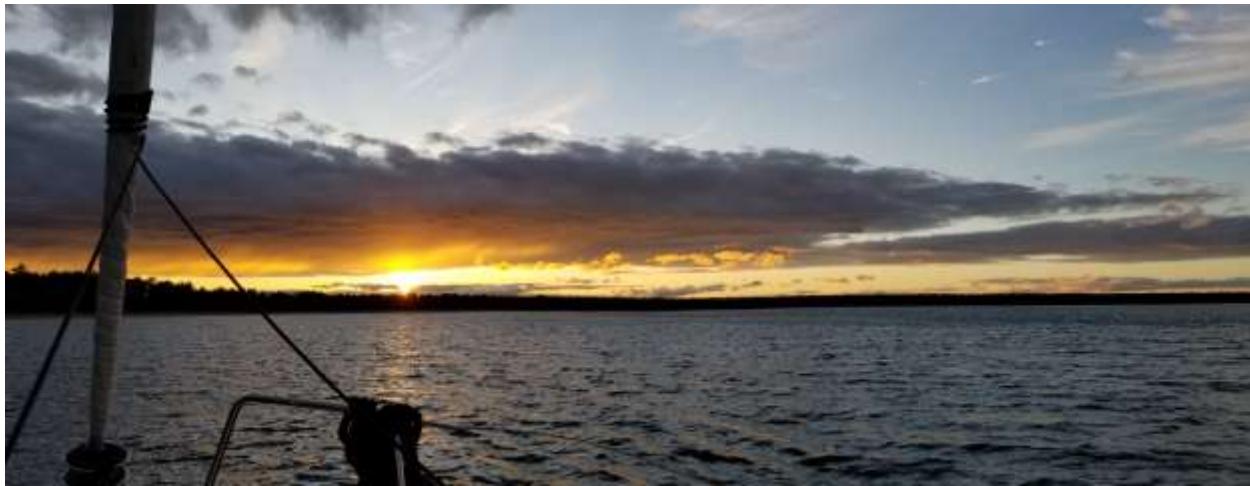


View from lookout at the north of Oak Island

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Last several photos are from Big Bay on Madeline Island

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All alone...



This and the prior photo are from Presque Isle Bay on Stockton Island

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