

Sodus Bay Bound

Sodus Point, NY

Last year Cherie and I had planned on cruising from Baltimore, MD to Rochester, NY; however, the Erie Canal was closed on and off around the time we had planned to leave Baltimore. With all the uncertainty we decided not to go.

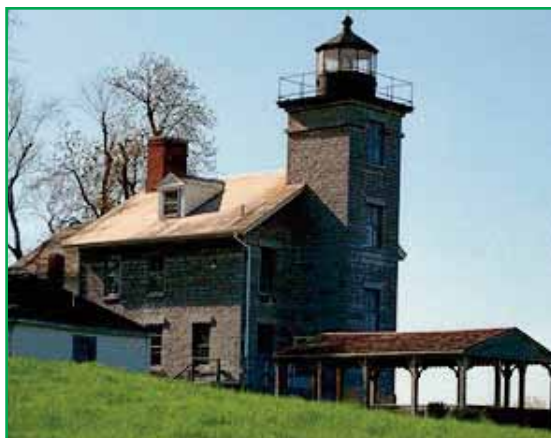
We are hoping this year will be better. As soon as the canal opens in May, we plan to depart Baltimore. Our route will be: north on the Chesapeake Bay, east through the C&D Canal, southeast on Delaware Bay, north along the New Jersey coast, and up the Hudson River to Troy. Then we will head west on the Erie Canal to Three Rivers Junction, north on the Oswego River/Canal to Lake Ontario and, finally, west to Sodus Point. The cruise should take us around 10 days. Sure, it could be completed more quickly, but why push such a scenic cruise? We will be keeping the *Mon Cherie* at Kaytlans Marina in Sodus Point, NY.

Sodus Point is one of those "must visit" waterfront towns. Whether you cruise to Sodus Point or trailer your boat, it is worth the trip. There are numerous marinas, boat ramps, B&Bs, restaurants, lounges and, of course, quaint and unique shops. Then there are the fishing and water sports.

Sodus Point is about 25 statute miles west of Oswego and about 34 statute miles east of Rochester on Lake Ontario. There are also an abundant number of other ports all along the lake's shore. With such a central location, Sodus Point is a great base location

for cruising Lake Ontario.

The first settlers arrived at Sodus Bay around 1792. The Indians called it "Assorodus," meaning "silvery water". Sodus Point was a naturally safe harbor and became one of the busiest ports on the lake. During its glory days the bay was a major shipping center for coal, lumber and farm goods. The first lighthouse was built about 1824. In 1871 a new and more sturdy lighthouse was constructed and still stands today. It is now a Maritime Museum and is operated by the Sodus Bay Historical Society and is open to the pub-



Sodus Light



by *Domenic & Cherie Mantoan*

lic. New York State's Arbor Day has its roots in Sodus Point. It was first conceived by Edward DeLano as a way to improve the school yards and provide shade for the children.

After the success of the Erie Canal, several businessmen came up with the idea of building the Sodus Canal, connecting Sodus Bay with the Erie Canal. The project was capitalized with \$200,000 in 1829. It was partly constructed but was never completed or used. In 1960 Governor Rockefeller brought up the idea again, but once more it never transpired.

During the war of 1812, Sodus Point was not immune to having its share of problems with the British. The British entered the town in search of provisions. Not finding what they wanted, they burned several home and shops. During the engagement two American and one English soldier were killed. One other English soldier was wounded and died later from his wounds.

Sodus Point has always been an ideal summer

continued on page 26

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by Domenic & Cherie Mantoan

continued from page 24

vacation town. One visit to the town and you can see why- even in the winter! During our winter scouting trips, we had an opportunity to meet several of the restaurant owners. As one would expect in a seasonal town, winter is the time to get to know the local restaurant owners since they have a little more time to socialize. They were all very friendly and gracious. There are three primary restaurants in the village:



Adrienne's

Cowboy 37 & Adrienne's has waterfront seating. Their menu is delightful. In addition to the regular and basic menu items, they have an abundance of signature dishes.

Papa Joe's has outdoor seating and a band almost every night during the summer. They offer a full menu and are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Captain Jack's has an upstairs deck and waterfront seating. Their menu is casual, but still offers a full selection. They have live music most nights during the



Papa Joe's

summer.

Then there is a food store near several marinas that is being revitalized. The store will be called Martella's and is a family-operated business. They will have pizzas, beer, and other necessities.

They make their own sausages and you get a

steak cooked for you or to take back to the boat and cook. This is a very unique store. It has that "general store" atmosphere with a genuinely friendly family-operated feeling.

Several of the local boaters told

me about a large sandy shoal area well inside the entrance of the bay that is a very popular party location on summer days and nights. This sounds like a great spot to hang out, just drop anchor, swim around or relax on the aft deck with a scotch and a cigar (I know, no drinking and driving, so we will just have to spend the night!) Then there are all



Captain Jack's

the fishing hot spots throughout the bay and along the lake shore. This is going to be a fun summer!

The primary marinas are:

- Krenzer Marina -315-483-6986 (in town center)
- Katlynn - 315-483-9102
- New Horizon - 315-483-6947 (has a pool and water taxi)
- Northwind - 315-483-6497
- Arney's - 315- 483-9111
- Oak Park - 315-587-2300 (has a pool, restaurant, but is on SE side of the bay)

We hope to see you along the way and/or in Sodus Point. Until next time, happy and safe boating to you, your family and friends.

Domenic & Cherie cruise aboard their 40' aft cabin motor yacht, *Mon Cherie*, and can be reached through www.boatingcruising.com or boating@mantoan.com.

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