

2012 North American Cruising Rally Announcement

To all Wayfarers:

The North American Cruising Rally returns to the marvelous beauty of the St. Lawrence River-Thousand Islands region in 2012. Wellesley Island is centrally located in the most attractive part of the Thousand Islands. This location offers numerous fantastic cruising opportunities in both US and Canadian waters and excellent dockage.

Those that participated in the 2009 rally will remember some of the fine sailing we had.



Rally dates are: Arrival - Saturday, July 14th; Departure - Saturday, July 21.

The mid-July dates were chosen to avoid the Alexandria Bay "Pirate Days" event held in early August at which time it is virtually impossible to reserve campsites. The Wayfarer Canadian Nationals Regatta occurs at the end of the week at the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club, so we hope that those participants interested in racing will find it convenient to attend both events.

The location is: N.Y. Wellesley Island State Park.

Reservations: Sites are already open up for reservation, so don't wait. We are a bit late on getting the announcement out, but at last look there were ample sites in areas like those reserved in 2009 - see more below.

The Target Area in the Park: 'Area E for Eagle' Sites 17-50 (easier to get) and 50-80 (harder to get)

NOTE: In the reservation system you can look at clusters in Area E, and then look at other sites nearby.



Overlooking Area E – Site 009



Near Site 005



Near Site 057



Near Site 074

The reservation website is www.reserveamerica.com, or

http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/Wellesley_Island_State_Park/r/campgroundDetails.do?page=details&contractCode=NY&parkId=240&topTabIndex=CampingSpot

There are two areas of slips - the main marina and the dock area next to 'Area E' sites. The reservations for slips open in the spring - we'll send more information about that later.



We are also recommending that participants consider obtaining a Nexus card. This is designed for frequent travelers between the US and Canada, replacing the need for a passport - in effect it's a pre-screening that speeds up border crossings. In 2009 we were unable to land on Canadian soil because current US Customs regulations would require us to check in via a videophone - of which there are none located on Wellesley Island. The Nexus card would allow us to visit Mulcaster Island - part of the Canadian Thousand Islands National Park - or the mainland across from Wellesley Island (where there are some interesting watering holes) and check in with a cell phone call. Having a Nexus card won't be a requirement for Rally participants, but if you're interested see the following for further information:

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/nexus_prog/nexus.xml

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/boats/pleasure_boat_overview.xml