

# Apostle Islands 2014: Stockton Island

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Participants: Herb, Dana, Carolyn, Ajit, Becky, Fran, Mike W

Trip Leaders: Dan M and Tim M.

In June, a group of eight ISK members took a trip that was meant to introduce newer paddlers to a more challenging trip on Lake Superior involving several crossings. The trip was to use Stockton Island as a base camp for exploring Michigan Island and any other destination the group wanted to.

Due to poor weather, the crossing to Stockton Island was delayed one day and the group practiced maneuvering in the wind and waves with loaded boats. The crossing took place the next day under ideal conditions, skirting Basswood and Hermit Islands.

The next day, the scheduled trip to Michigan Island was canceled, again due to poor weather. A trip to the sea caves on Stockton Island was aborted at the tombolo because of strong easterly winds. The rest of the day was spent hanging out and taking a hiking trip to the quarry on the western end of the island.

The final day's return to Bayfield was delayed due to isolated storm cells. After finally crossing to Madeleine Island, paddling was easy until the group got to the western end of the island where high winds slowed and eventually delayed progress. Eventually the group was able to cross from Madeleine Island to Bayfield after the winds died down.

In short, the trip turned out to be a great learning experience for everyone in the decision-making processes involved in a trip involving crossings when bad weather is one of the factors.