

COVER STORY



Photos courtesy of ANNIE MAHLE

ABOVE: The Riggins is shown in full sail.
BELOW LEFT: A classic Maine lobster boil.
BELOW RIGHT: Annie Mahle cooks in the galley of The Riggins.

'Heart of the great ocean'

Maine schooner cruise offers sights, tastes of life at sea



By PEGGY NEULAND
Correspondent

We pile into the dingy at Owl's Head Harbor in Maine, suitcases and all, and putter over to the two-masted schooner called "The Riggins." Jon Finger, our captain, tells us we're in for a treat that evening. His wife, Annie, the cook, was making one of his favorites on the woodstove oven: Braised lamb and sauteed kale with almonds and cranberries. "Wait until you see the dessert," he says as we motor over to a beauty of a boat with a welcoming crew of fresh-faced interns grabbing our

bags, a first mate pulling us up the ladder, and passengers already toasting the sunset. Christina and I have a shared bunk room outfitted with homemade quilts and thick wool blankets. We throw our bags on top of the beds, grab a sweater and long pants, and head to the deck for platters of mild Penobscot cheddar, creamy gouda, crumbled blue and a nutty brie flecked with herb. Christina pours us some white Rioja as we lean into cushions on the deck and the islands seems to glow pink as the bay settles itself in the protected cove.

The Riggins, built for oyster dredging in 1927, is

CRUISE | PAGE D-2

Great-grandmother needs crib, etc. for great-grandson



CHRIS GRAHAM
Chris' Mailbag

Rock-a-bye baby, welcoming a boy, an addition to a family which brings special joy ... A baby brings changes, not just the diaper kind, perhaps a needed location change means a new home to find ... When setting up a nursery be-

comes a costly affair, it's a good idea to check to see if others have baby things to share! Mailbag readers have helped many families with baby items to help furnish an attractive, functional and fun area for a new

family member. "Got baby things?" **Needs a crib, 'everything'** "I'm writing this to the Mailbag because I know you do good for people in hard times," writes Linda B. of Nashua (LTR 2,821).

"My granddaughter is going to have a baby in October. She had to move and the rent is really high, so she is having a hard time getting stuff. The littlest one will be 4 years old in July so, of course, she needs everything. She is

mostly looking for a crib. The baby is a boy after 4 great-grandchildren - all girls. Your mailbag has been really good to us and other people. Thanks to you." An article published

MAILBAG | PAGE D-2



Man miffed when woman is older than she advertised

DEAR ABBY: I am a 58-year-old man who has been meeting women online for a few years. I recently met "Molly," whose profile said she was 60.

We dated several times, and then she spent a few days at my house. Certain things she said made me suspect she was older. So I looked her name up online and found out she was seven years older than she had advertised.

I consider lying on a dating profile to be similar to lying on a job application. When she asked me when she could come over again, I nicely said I couldn't consider a long-term relation-



DEAR ABBY

ship with someone her age.

So what's the penalty for putting false info on a dating profile? Grounds for dismissal, like with a job?

— *Wants someone my own age*

DEAR WANTS: Dating sites are a form of advertising, and as with "buying" any product, the rule is caveat emptor — let the buyer be-

ware. Many women — and men — fudge the truth on dating sites when stating their height, weight, age and income. (There's a saying in journalism: If your mother says she loves you, check it out.)

Not everyone ages at the same rate. Some people are "old" at 45. Others are healthy, vital and energetic at 70.

Molly was able to pass for younger than her chronological age. If the number is that important to you, it's your right to move on. But being rigid about age could let a good person slip by.

Everyone puts their best

foot forward. Get used to it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm facing major surgery in Seattle, where my son and his wife live, 2,000 miles from my home. After the surgery, I must stay in town for 10 days until my post-op appointment. Then I'll be given the green light to travel home.

During that period, my son will be working overseas and his wife plans to join him. Because their condo will be empty, I asked if my husband and I could stay there during my recovery. My son informed us that while we are welcome to stay there when they're in town, we

are not welcome when they aren't.

My son would never do this to us; I know it came from his wife. I also know that if the request were from her mother, she'd be welcome in a heartbeat.

I have been nothing but generous and supportive of them. We aren't slob and would care for the place as if it were our own. I just don't understand. How do I react? What can I say? My son's wife has isolated him from some of his friends, too.

— *Aching in Alaska*

DEAR ACHING: Your disappointment is understand-

able, but the way to react is to tell your son that you are disappointed and you will make other arrangements for a place to recuperate.

I don't think it would be helpful right now to point out that his wife has isolated him from his friends and appears to be doing the same with his mother and dad. He will figure that out for himself in time, if he doesn't already know.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

HELPING HANDS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Helping Hands* is a weekly feature that provides information about the needs of local nonprofit agencies. Please review your nonprofit's listing, and refresh it as needed. Send changes to kpalmern@nashuatelegraph.com. Thank you!

Adult Learning Center
4 Lake St., Nashua, NH 03060
NEEDS: ESOL and Adult Basic Education tutors for 1½-2 hours per week.
HOURS: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.
CONTACT: Connie Cullen,

882-9080 ext. 208, or ccullen@adultlearningcenter.org.
WEBSITE: www.adultlearningcenter.org.

Anne-Marie House
180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH 03051
NEEDS: High-efficiency laundry detergent pods, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, copy paper, tall kitchen bags, and large garbage bags.
COLLECTION HOURS: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.
CONTACT: 883-7338, ext. 1, or info@annemariehouse.org.

WEBSITE: www.annemariehouse.org.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua

1 Positive Place, Nashua, NH 03060
NEEDS: Volunteers to help in new science program. Volunteers must be at least 15 years or older. Program runs 5-6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays. Volunteers can choose which day they would like to volunteer. Also looking for volunteers to mentor Club members, at least one hour a week. Mentoring activities vary.

COLLECTION HOURS: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

CONTACT: Bree Cosgrove, bcosgrove@bgcn.com or 883-0523, ext. 237.
WEBSITE: www.bgcn.com.

Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance

43 Franklin St., Nashua, NH 03064
NEEDS: Our needs are currently for cereal, canned meats and vegetables, toiletry and personal hygiene items. We also need gently used household items such as pots and pans, kitchen utensils,

linens and small working appliances.

COLLECTION HOURS: 10 a.m.-noon Mondays, Wednesdays; 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays.

CONTACT: Susan Dignan, 882-6372.
WEBSITE: corpuschristi-foodpantry.org.

Front Door Agency

12 Concord St., Nashua, NH 03064
NEEDS: New twin bedding, healthy snacks for kids, juice boxes, paper towels, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, feminine products and 55-gallon black contractor

trash bags.

COLLECTION HOURS: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

CONTACT: Nancy Paige, 886-2866, npaige@frontdooragency.org.
WEBSITE: www.frontdooragency.org.

Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity — ReStore

352 Amherst St., Nashua, NH 03063
NEEDS: Volunteers to help run our ReStore! Donations of new and gently used

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Mailbag | Portable hoop still available

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in Live Science states "Worldwide, there are 107 boy babies born for every 100 girl babies" and whether it's a boy or a girl you're wishing for, the only wish should be for he or she to be healthy and loved. Over the years, several cribs, bassinets, changing tables, even dressers, toys, etc., have changed hands through The Mailbag, with families having kept in touch as new additions arrive. If you have a crib available, or other baby items for Linda for her granddaughter, the number to get in touch with Linda is 577-1400. P.S.: She can pick up for her. Congratulations, and let me know how things are going!

Updates

■ Mark of Nashua (LTR 2,270), offering a portable basketball hoop, writes "Didn't get a single call on the basketball hoop, probably because of the holiday weekend. The portable basketball hoop is still available to someone, preferably with kids, who can get the same enjoyment that we and our kids received from it. It is in good shape, but needs a new net. All metal with a plastic base that can be filled with water or sand for stability. It is available for pickup in Nashua." Folks having made plans for this past Fourth of July holiday and the recent heat wave debilitating for many may well have been among the reasons no one "jumped through a hoop" — ahem!, in response to this offer. Mark can be reached at 566-5281.

■ Pat A. of Milford (LTR 3,268) who is "in great

need since we just moved, having lost most of our possessions," has had several responses. Chris' Mailbag is working on arranging for pick up of these generously donated items. The Mailbag lady has had a recent death in the family and things are delayed just a bit. Everyone's patience is greatly appreciated as I make arrangements with the gentleman who has offered to help get the much-needed items to Pat and her family.

■ People helping people: While The Mailbag, a "people helping people" column, mostly helps folks find needed items, re-home items, or connect people with services through bartering, the Mailbag Lady also likes to remind people to check on friends and neighbors, especially the elderly, during these extremely hot days with temperatures soaring to uncomfortable heights. Some folks may even be hesitant to use their ACs due to the cost of electricity, so an extra electric fan, cold bottled water, or an extra tray of ice cubes may be greatly appreciated.

Contact Chris' Mailbag by sending mail to Chris' Mailbag c/o The Telegraph, 17 Executive Drive, Hudson, NH 03051, or email Christine.graham33@gmail.com. Include full name and complete address, along with telephone number or email address for publication, if applicable. Items eligible for publication are for donation, trade or barter only; requests of items for sale or purchase will not be included. Items obtained through the Mailbag are donated by readers for the exclusive use of Telegraph readers or others who may accept the donation. Any resale is expressly prohibited and closely monitored. Violators will be prosecuted for fraud and theft by deception.

Cruise | Dinner followed by 'a work of art'

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now a revamped, elegant schooner, polish rigged and carrying 4,000 square feet of canvas. A National Historical Landmark, she now adorns the Penobscot Bay in full-throttle beauty. Sleek, she can glide in and out of the smaller coves and points such as Owl's Head, Tennants Harbor, Saddleback Ledge and Goose Rocks. Lighthouses are a specialty feature, and Captain Jon promises a tour of a couple of obscure ones for each sail.

"Owl's Head is my favorite," he says.

Strolling along the deck, I find a perch on the bowsprit, and the sound of voices disappears with the breeze coming past Dodge Point Ledge. Monroe Island sits still and green in pine, empty except for a school of porpoise swimming in line to the open ocean.

I walk past the galley to Annie's kitchen, and the tiny space is a beehive of boiling pots, woodstove flame, a crew busy slicing and dicing, and Annie singing a song in the heat of the moment. I stay out of their way as platter and plate, vases full of wildflowers, cloth napkins and trays of the most delectable food come past me to the wide open deck that becomes a communal table.

There is handmade pasta with basil and sundried tomato, braised lamb adorned with pepper, the bright green of kale, and loaves of crusty sourdough and fresh cream butter. We cheer and load our plates, taking seats on the deck in twos and threes, all with a view of the sunset. The chocolate orange tart — with sea salt, lemon zest and caramel bark in the shape of sail — is a work of art.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCHOONER J. & E. RIGGIN.

136 Holmes St., Rockland, Maine. 1-800-869-0604. www.mainewindjammer.com. Ask for the August Lazy Days of Summer special and go on the windjammer parade or head out for lighthouse tours and lobsters.

250 MAIN HOTEL.

Rockland, Maine. 1-207-594-5994. www.250mainhotel.com.

A boutique hotel of 26 rooms with harbor views and decks. Ask about sail/stay specials. Perfect place to spend the night after days out sailing. Walkable to downtown.

CENTER FOR MAINE CONTEMPORARY ART.

Funky museum downtown with Jonathan Borofsky exhibit through Aug. 21. www.cmcanow.org.



Photo courtesy of ANNIE MAHLE

The Riggins is shown with its sails down.

"I've come for 15 years," a spritely woman tells me. She shows me a patch sewn onto her jacket declaring her a Riggins Relic. "I have to visit the sea every year."

Captain Jon soon brings out the guitar. He leans on the fore bits, or the large wooden posts on the deck, and strums while Annie chimes in with refrains from classic Maine sea shanties.

"No more gales or heavy weather," she sings, and we reply, "Only one more day

together." The sea gulls hover around our heads as our collective audience, and they screech along with us.

Eventually, when the wind picks up, we gather in the galley, and sing group ditties about hauling the line, and rounding the bend, off shore isles and whiskey Johnnies. Kerosene lanterns adorn our tables as the wood stove warms our cheeks. We link arms as we scream/sing, "a spanking full-rigger just ready for sea" and "a bon-

nie good ship and a bonnie good crew." The stars are heavy in the night sky as we climb down the ladders to our bunks. Christina and I open a port hole for fresh breeze all night, and hunker down in our bunks hoping for oceanswept dreams.

The next morning comes early. Annie places trays of "just out of the wood stove" warm honeybuns on the foredeck, and fresh coffee is poured and shared. We wrap ourselves in wool blankets and hear of the adventures for that day from Captain Jon.

The Camden Hills loom in the distance, and the islands of the Penobscot Bay are waiting. The wind is brisk just past Spaulding Island, so that means after a full-throttle breakfast of lobster frittata, it's time to raise the sails.

I volunteer to raise the headsails. Working hand over hand — and sometimes hand smashed into hand — with Christina and four other, more coordinated crew members, we eventually get the heavy sails ready for the open ocean. Next, the anchor is hauled up, by hand and crank, and we are off.

Passing Owl's Head lighthouse, the wind hits the sails and we are flying, it seems, straight toward Vinalhaven Island. I pull a wool hat over my ears, and the sea is a canvas of white cap and frothy wave. The Riggins slices through the blue, and no wonder the sailors sang and the poets wrote, because it is magic and magnificent out here in the "heart of the great ocean."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow knew about the secrets of the sea, "the sails of silk, the ropes of sandal," and I chant his verse as we head due east, land no longer in view.



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