

M/S Mount Washington Prepares for Winter Greening and Renovation.

WEIRS BEACH, NH –

The M/S Mount Washington, a New Hampshire icon, is gearing up to go green over its next winter break. The boat will be refitted with new technology engines, and be renovated to serve the needs of tomorrow's tourism market.

The M/S Mount Washington's official season runs from May 23rd through October 24th, and after the attendees of 2009's last cruise have gone ashore, the esteemed vessel will embark on a one million dollar renovation while significantly reducing polluting emissions.

The current twin 615 horsepower Enterprise diesel engines were installed in the spring of 1946 at the conclusion of WWII. At the time, all steam equipment was removed and replaced with electrical power including the steering plant and propellers. The wheelhouse was also moved from the second deck to the third deck to improve viability.

Its original steam engines, which had been taken years earlier from a ship on Lake Champlain, Vermont, were replaced by Enterprise diesel engines, which added 30 tons to the ship's weight and enable it to be run on electricity. The pre-existing steam engines had to be removed and the two new diesel engines lowered into place by 25-ton chainfalls. After these renovations, the state of New Hampshire's Public Service Commission inspected and licensed the vessel for sail during August of 1946.

"When I first came into this company some thirty years ago, I had the honor to work with many of the people that brought the M/S Mount Washington to New Hampshire in 1940," adds Jim Morash, Captain and General Manager of Mount Washington Cruises. "It is my privilege to know that someday this New Hampshire landmark can be passed on to the next generation in a condition that will ensure its existence for many years to come." For 63 years, the twin diesel Enterprise engines have faithfully served visitors and residents of New Hampshire. This season, the staff and crew of the M/S Mount Washington plan to commemorate the rich history of the engines with special tours of the engine room and screenings of a short historical video in the Steamboat Lounge during daytime scenic cruises.

In the past 137 years, there have been only two vessels on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH, named Mount Washington. A 175' side-wheeler steamer (1872-1939) and a 230' diesel vessel (1940–present). In the early days, the side-wheeler made stops at Bear Island, Long Island, Diamond Island and Glendale in addition to her normal ports of call of Center Harbor, Wolfeboro, Alton Bay and Weirs Beach. The side-wheeler Mount Washington was built in Alton Bay at a cost of \$62,000 while the present-day Mount was built in Lakeport at a cost of \$125,000.

The first Mount had four Captains in her 67-year history, while the present day Mount has had 12 Captains (5 currently) in her 63 years on the lake. It takes a minimum of seven crew members just to take the ship out of port. However, the Mount usually carries an average of 15 crew each cruise. The M/S Mount Washington is a 230 ft. ship with 4 levels, 3 dance floors, and several outside areas for enjoying the cruise during the daytime or evening.