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## BLOG: WEIRS BEACH TOUR

26 May 2016 3:11 PM | *Kelly Bryer (Administrator)*

By: Tim Adams, Southern NH University Class of 2013



It started out raining, and raining hard, unlike the previous days when it was more of a light drizzle or perhaps just a damp mist. But, the forecast had called for it to be a sunny day and so I hopped into my car and headed north to join in the Weirs Beach Tour that was scheduled for later in the morning.



Well, when I reached Manchester the sun made an appearance. It was funny how warm it got when the clouds weren't hiding it and how quickly it cooled of when they were.

Our first stop was to the Grand View Motel and Cottages just a short drive past the main Weirs Beach parking area. Easy to find and offering a real nice view of the lake from their elevated location.

The motel began operations way back in 1850 and, while having several owners since that time, has remained a constant place for 'Quiet Comfortable Rooms by the Day or Week'. While the rooms did indeed look comfortable, many people I think would enjoy the view more. Looking out over the lake from a hillside above it, offers you quite view.

The current owners, Tom and Lynda Pucci are the second generation of Pucci's to own the Grand View Motel and Cottages, having taken over from Tom's parents when they retired back in 2004. While the place has remained much the same, upgrades have taken place including HD TV's in the rooms (on vacation who needs them?), WiFi, a Facebook Page, and both Instagram for photo's and a topical 'Blog' to keep guests and potential visitors up to date on the local happenings. You almost can't run a business these day without a presence on social media.



From the Grand View we walked (yet another reason to pick the Grand View) to Kellerhaus Homemade Candies and Gifts where we split into a couple of smaller groups. One group headed to the homemade ice cream to make Sundaes smothered with their homemade toppings while the group I was with headed downstairs to watch, and help, make some Chocolate Pecan Clusters. Who knew it was so easy to make? Well, easy IF you are a pro at tempering chocolate and have the right equipment that is. Our part included taking a spoon, filling it with the melted mixture and carefully placing it onto the wax paper. While not everybody took a turn at making a piece, those of us that did came up with a variety of sizes and shapes, with some of us going so far as to add just a bit more Chocolate to the piece we had already placed.



The two groups then sort of swapped places so those of us who had worked could enjoy a Sundae and those that had already had the Sundae could get the chance to make some candy. A fair swap I think.

We then wandered about the gift shop where you could buy just about anything. The popular item was the candy but they did offer so much more.

Then we took off to Proctor's Lakehouse Cottages for a brief history of the cottages & suites and a tour of several of them.



Proctor's Lakehouse Cottages offers a beach front location on Paugus Bay of Lake Winnepesaukee so you can get into the water to cool off on those steamy summer days and also a place to tie up your boat so you have easy access to the rest of the lake. Proctor's is a bit different as they have a kitchenette in each of their rooms - if you don't want to eat out every day of your stay, you don't have to. They, like the Grand View, are so close to the center of Weir's Beach that you can walk, rather than





drive your car and hope to find a place to park. These rooms also looked very comfortable and the location is easy to find.

One item that I thought was a bit strange at first is that you need to call either the Grand View or Proctor's Lakehouse Cottages to make a reservation! While many places allow you to book a room online, these places want to talk with you to make sure you get just what you are looking for so you know, before you arrive, what to look forward to. After hearing the reason explained, I fully understood the reasoning.

We then headed over to the MS Mount Washington for a tour of both the Pilots office and the engine room, two places most passengers never get to visit. While you can peek into the Pilots office, seeing all of the equipment that they have to make your trip as safe as possible isn't something you can really see from a peek in the window.



Multiple displays showing the contour of the lake, showing other boats, rocks and islands were hanging from the ceiling and three different methods of contacting the engine room to adjust the speed of the boat were also available.

The 'new' engines were just added about 6 years ago and are still in their 'break in' period. Being diesel engines, they take a lot of use before they really get 'broken in'.

We were also given a bit of a history lesson on the ship itself. Did you know it was cut into several pieces and shipped to the lake then reassembled? Did you know that since that time it was cut into to pieces and had a new section added to the middle of it to make it bigger? Well, now you know!



The tour was wonderful even with the day starting with the rain. We got to see a couple of places to send people looking for a vacation spot in the lakes region, a wonderful place for ice cream and candy as well as a place to spend a few hours touring the lake. All in all, a wonderful day!

To view a few of the pictures I took along the way, visit <https://picasaweb.google.com/106223888636619321110/6284938985727700145>

### ***Here's what some of the other GSA's who attended the tour had to say...***

I attended this tour to experience what visitors find when they choose to book time at and visit the Weirs Beach area. I now see why the Pucci's call their motel 'Grand View'- the view is spectacular and like no other!

Kellerhaus is just the best for friendliness, hospitality and delicious chocolates and ice cream! I really enjoyed Kellerhaus's homemade ice cream and chocolate candy and time to browse and shop for unique items. My favorite flavor is the cherry chocolate chip! When you visit you'll even hear a player piano!

I totally loved hearing that the Clausen's like their Proctor's Lakehouse Cottages to be know as having a 'Retro Vacation Feel that caters to Families'! You will love the atmosphere, large sandy beach and the family times your sure to have there.

And the Mount, how huge it looked empty! And, the 'Wow, that's great!' goes to the free tickets! The MS Mount Washington is a comfortable spacious ship that can provide you with a relaxing tour of the Big Lake or even dining and dancing opportunities!

Kathleen Kozak

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Your presentation and tour of the Mount was very interesting and informative. I am looking forward to cruising with you this summer. I volunteer at the Manchester Welcome Center, and I will recommend that all visitors to our state visit the Weirs Area and experience a cruise on the Mount Washington. Kudos to you and your staff for thanking our Veterans for their service.

Also, we, as GSA's, appreciate the perk to sail on the the MS Mount Washington. This is something we can look forward to on an annual basis.

Sandra Chandonnet

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How great it was to visit the charming gift shop at the Kellerhaus again! I remember the great ice cream smorgasbord from years past and was thrilled to be able to enjoy it again! Thank you so much for everything.

Sandra Chandonnet

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Although the weather was far from summer like , the views of the lake, islands and surrounding mountains were serene and breathtaking. At our first stop – the aptly named Grand View Motel & Cottages, we were greeted with hot coffee and Knuckles the resident Dachshund. The property sits high overlooking the lake with incredible lake views and all day sun. The property dates back to 1850 when it opened as a " Tourist Home". It is evident that throughout it's history and evolution the place has been cherished and cared for by its owners.

Today the second generation of the Pucci family have brought the place into the 21 century with HD digital cable and high speed internet while maintaining the charm of these old summer cabins we remember from our childhood. On site are 12 Motel rooms and 10 rustic cabins and a large sunny swimming pool. There is plenty of open space for games or relaxing in the many Adirondack chairs on the lawn or in the shade of the front porch. You can check them out on Facebook. Guests should be encouraged to check availability last minute as they will rent for the short stay if they have it open.

Next stop Kellerhaus, yum...It's never too early in the day for ice cream and a large toppings bar and that's what we were treated too. When we weren't eating something, we were browsing the huge gift shop – two floors with something for everyone. They really appreciated us stopping by and hope we send our lakes region visitors their way. No doubt about that! If you are hungry you can order the 10 scoop bowl – and yes, they sell quite a few of those! The Kellerhaus is open year round and they were quite busy for a chilly spring Monday morning.  
Patty Mason

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