



The 33-foot boat at Port du Canal Hesse in which Michel Racette, our president, along with his wife Nicole made a three-day cruise trip on the Marne-Rhine canal.



## A DREAM COME TRUE

BY MICHEL RACETTE, PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE, NICOLE SÉNÉCAL RACETTE, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RASSET FAMILIES.

For many years Nicole and I have shared a common passion, namely sailing at Lac des Deux-Montagnes in Oka.

Over the years we have made several sailing trips, whether to Valleyfield or Ottawa. We are very happy to go on an adventure with a little preparation.

Outside Quebec, we went on a catamaran in Martinique and in Greece in the small Cyclades with friends who enjoy the great outdoors also.

However, we were missing a dream not yet realized as sailing lovers: sailing on canals in Europe, more particularly in France on a barge.

So here in early October, the dream would finally come true in France in the Alsace region on the Marne-Rhine Canal with a couple of friends from Repentigny with whom we have been traveling together for many years.

Navigation on the canals is done with barges and involves the passage of several locks and tunnels. As I do for each sailing trip in Quebec, I have prepared this three-day trip on the Marne-Rhine canal for a long time. So the route included 13 fully automatic locks (fortunately) in this region of France in addition to two tunnels including one of 2.6 kilometers and finally, the inclined plane of Arzviller, unique in Europe which replaces seven locks and has done so for fifty years.

So we arrived in Hesse, the starting point of our three-day round trip cruise from Hesse (Lorraine) to Saverne (Alsace). After the instructions of usage from the houseboat owner, it's the big departure around noon under a gray sky.

Our three-day trip allowed us to cross Lorraine and Alsace and see magnificent landscapes, but in the rain it is really **not so** beautiful. Fortunately the boat was very comfortable and spacious. As for food and wine, we were well prepared. So the three-day trip at a maximum speed of 8 km / hour went well apart from the temperature (two hours of sunshine over three days). We were lucky to have very good friends who were open and available for maneuvers especially during the 13 locks and two tunnels (round trip) in addition to the inclined plane of Arzviller (see photos).

The trip took us out of our comfort zone, that's also vacation. We also, in addition to magnificent landscapes, visited the city of Saverne (see photos) with the our friends.

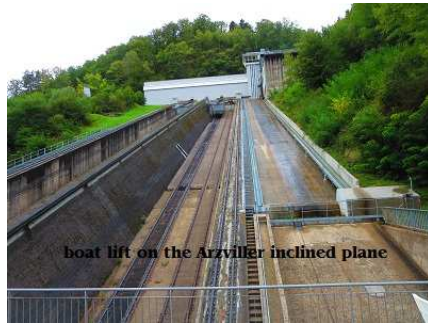
Aside from the initial difficulty of adjusting to the passage of the automatic locks and a problem with the aft hull of the boat, the trip went very well. All that was missing in the end was the sun. But luckily before and after this three-day trip we visited the cities of Reims, Épernay, Verdun, Nancy, Strasbourg, Colmar, Beaune and Colombey-les-Deux-Églises, and tasted several Champagnes and Alsace wines.

Despite the gray bad weather and the rain for 9 days out of 14, we had an unforgettable trip and the taste for adventure and boating has not waned.





One of the 13 locks on our way



boat lift on the Arzviller inclined plane



Lorraine landscape in Lutzelbourg



Saverne marina in Alsace



Nathalie Veilleux and Benoit Delisle with Michel Racette on the Grand Rue de Saverne



Michel Racette with moorings



Nicole Sénécal Racette turned out to be an excellent captain



Nicole and Michel Racette in front of the village of Saverne

## ANNOUCEMENT FROM THE RASSETS

The Rasset Families Association wishes to inform members that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all activities, namely, meetings and the gatherings have been suspended until further notice.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns for your health and safety. We recommend that you follow public health rules until a vaccine is available. We recommend you to use this free time to do everything you never had the time to do.



[www.famillesracette.org](http://www.famillesracette.org)



Association Des Familles Rasset

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