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Newsletter Winter/Spring 2012

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A newsletter to inform the members of ongoing activities within the Isle Royale Boater's Association, promote discussion among its members on various IRBA issues and share members' experiences related to boating, sport fishing, hiking, canoeing, and kayaking.

IRBA Update by Dave Hand

With the warmer than usual weather this year many of us are already thinking about boating, fishing and planning the next Isle Royale trip. You may want to check out the schedule of events section in this newsletter to see if you can fit these IRBA events into your plans.

This past year we had our usual two very successful events: the West-End fund raiser in June held at the Superior Shores Resort in Two Harbors, Minnesota, and the Isle Royale Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry held at the Johnson Pavilion at Windigo. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in either one of these events, I strongly encourage you to make an effort to attend this year's events. These events are an excellent opportunity to meet and converse with a lot of wonderful people that have the same common interests. In addition, you may be lucky enough to win a prize or catch a prize winning trout.

This year, the West-End chapter has already started activity with a booth at the Duluth

Sport Show held this past month. It was a great success. Good job to everyone who participated!

Some of you may be wondering about IRBA's proposal to build a floating dock facility at Passage Island. The proposal is in review at the Regional Office in Omaha, NE. IRBA members will be informed as soon as we hear from the park service. Hope to see all of you at the upcoming IRBA events this year.

Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results - by Dave Hand

The Ninth Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was our largest fishing event to date. Held at Windigo, the two-day event beginning at sunrise on Friday, July 16, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and on Saturday, July 17, from sunrise to weigh-in at 2:00 PM. Each boat was allowed to enter the three largest fish by weight. The fish caught were donated for the IRBA Fish Fry after the awards presentation held at the Johnson Pavilion.

Plaques were given to the boat with the highest total weight, second place and third place.

Plaques were given for the three largest fish taken by trolling and the largest fish taken in the tournament. IRBA member John Evans (L'Anse MI) donated trophies for the event. Thanks John! In addition, the "Wooden Herring Award" travel trophy was also up for grabs by either the Minnesota or Michigan fishermen for the three largest fish by weight.

The number of entries this year was exceptional with 59 fishermen entered in the contest. The boat 'Fish Nautzi' (Kent Hoffman, Ron Bailey, Bill Bailey, & Grant Sorenson) took the top spot with their three largest fish totaling a whopping 71 lb 9 oz. Great Job Guys!

The second place honors went to the boat 'Late Entry' (Marty Anderson, Quinn Anderson, Mason Anderson & Richard Blaido) with a total weight of 53 lbs. The 'Barbra Jean' (Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin & Mike Cardinal) took the third spot with their three largest fish weighing a total of 39 lbs 6 oz.



Kent Hoffman with the Largest Fish

As you can see from the winners, they are all Minnesota Fishermen. WOW! What happened to those Michigan Guys? Obviously, the coveted Wooden Herring Award went to the Minnesota Fishermen with a total weight of 75 lbs. Congratulations to the Minnesota Fishermen as they have taken the lead in the number of Wooden Herring Awards. The 2012 tournament to be held at Rock Harbor will be exciting.

The Fish Fry was another big success this year as we had about 140 people attend the feast. IRBA appreciates all those who participated in the fishing event and helped with the fish fry.

I would also like to thank IRBA members Brian and Margret Helminen, owners of Designotype Printers of Calumet, MI for the design of our new banner.



The Fish Nautzi Crew

The largest fish honors went to Kent Hoffman fishing on the 'Fish Nautzi' weighing in at a massive 30 lbs 12 oz.



IRBA Members enjoying the Saturday Fish Fry.



More happy IRBA Members.

West End Update by Marty Anderson

IRBA West End participated in the 2012 Duluth Sport Show held on Feb 14th-19th. The booth was a big hit this year and the notables include:

- Over 200 pieces of IRBA literature were distributed with good conversation about the IRBA and what's going on at the Island.
- Spoke to seven different couples from Thunder Bay, Canada who are interested in the Island. They were given member information.

- Spoke to five different sail boaters regarding membership. They were given application information as well.
- Spoke with nine kayakers regarding membership.
- Numerous people were interested in coming to the Island for the first time or now have a new boat and are planning to visit the Island this year. The great news is that these people were early 40's or younger and were planning to bring their families. We passed out over half of the literature provided by the Park's Service to these folks with a lot of great conversation.
- Signed up one three-year re-up, two new three-year members, and four new one-year members.
- Funds for three, three-year memberships and one, one-year membership have been sent to Houghton.
- Funds for three, one-year memberships have yet to be collected by Houghton. Thank you/reminder letters were sent to these three individuals.
- Many of the people who pre-registered for the summer fundraiser expressed interest in signing up or renewing their membership while at the fundraiser in June.
- Pre-registered 41 people for the June fundraiser who all said that two or more people would be coming with their groups. That's 82 participants! Yahoo!
- A big **Thank You** to Joe and Barbara Mecklin for supplying the photo backdrop for the display. It looked very professional and showed wonderfully.

- Another big **Thank You** to Dwight and Dwain Moe, Greg Libby, Skipp Brandt, Don Omtrdud, Joe Mecklin, and Oden Ahlreck for all of their help and time spent at the show. Their participation made it a big success.
- Provided Russ from *Marine General*, with the *Day on the Water* packets for finding three premium gift givers for our June fundraiser. Russ thought it looked great and will get back to me this month.
- Good news! All of the conversations that we had this year were positive. We heard lots of "Good work" and "Thanks for looking out for boater's rights at the Island." Many had never heard of us before but thought the IRBA was a great idea.
- Thanks to Mark Rude for tracking down pictures and park literature, to Dave Hand for much needed information, pictures, and literature, and Kristine for the follow-up on new members.



IRBA member Barbara Mecklin tending the booth at the Duluth Boat Show.

IRBA Annual Membership Dues

If you're not sure about membership dues please take a look at the mailing address on this newsletter. Underneath your name there is a line that shows 'Dues paid '11 '12 '13 Lifetime" If there is a check mark in the 11 box and no check in the 12 box then your membership for this year is due. If there is a check in the 12, 13 or lifetime your dues are paid up. Of course we always appreciate a donation! There is a membership for attached to newsletter if you need it. If not, then pass it on to someone you may know that would be interested in joining.

IRBA Apparel Available

Presently, we have a lot of medium, large and extra large sweatshirts, and polo shirts. You can contact Carol during the day at (906) 482-9342.

IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Meeting Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 7PM, at the Range Snowmobile Club, South Range, MI.

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Saturday, May 19, 2012, at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, MI. Beverages will be served from 5:00 - 6:00 PM followed by a dinner buffet at 6:00.

West End Fund Raiser, Thursday, June 14, 2012, 5 PM, at the Superior Shores Resort, Two Harbors, MN.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 20, 2012, and Saturday, July 21, 2012, at the Rock Harbor Lodge, Rock Harbor, IR. Meeting July 21, 2012, 5 PM, followed by the fish fry.