



Spring 2011

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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

The annual dinner meeting was held on May 21, 2011 at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, MI. The IRBA officers elected for the 2011 - 2012 year is President and CEO Dave Hand, Vice President and COO Fred Bieti, Vice President and Treasurer Dave Jukuri, and Corporate Secretary Betty Bieti. Dwight Moe was elected to the board of directors to replace Dwane Falconer who passed away earlier this year. The present board of directors are: Fred Bieti, Ed Glowaki, Dave Hand, Don Hannula, Dave Jukuri, James Markham, Dwight Moe, Woody Petersen, Tom Thornton, Mark Rude, Dave Miller, Pat Siler, and John Drew.

In the last newsletter I mistakenly forgot to include an IRBA membership form for renewal of your membership. I have included one in this newsletter in case you could not find it on the website. Sorry for the mistake.

With respect to the proposed floating dock at Passage Island, I was informed by the park superintendent Phyllis Green that they will

perform studies this summer and fall to assess the environmental and cultural feasibility of our proposal and reach a decision by spring of 2012.

A fish cleaning station will be installed at Windigo Harbor, hopefully in time for the July island meeting. This donation is courtesy of IRBA west end chapter.

The annual West End fund raising banquet will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at Superior Shores Resort, [the same location as last year], located on Highway 61, one mile East of Two Harbors. The resort agreed to hold banquet costs at last year's prices so ticket prices will be once again be \$25.00. If you need a "block" of tickets for sale, contact Dwight Moe, 218 834 3969 otherwise tickets will be available through the usual member outlets or at the door. If you plan to purchase tickets at the door please let us know as early as possible so we can keep an approximate head count.

The 9th Annual IRBA Fishing Tournament will be a two day event; beginning at sunrise on Friday, July 15, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM (Windigo, Johnson Pavilion) and on Saturday, July 16, from

sunrise to weigh-in at 3:00 PM at the same place. Each boat will be allowed to enter the three largest fish by weight. Fish entered Friday can NOT be upgraded on Saturday (For example, if two fish are entered on Friday then only one can be entered on Saturday). Fishermen can fish either or both days as long as they make the weigh-in deadline on each day. We will provide a leader board for the two-day event located at Johnson Pavilion. The tournament is a fundraiser with a cash prize for the boat that catches the three largest lake trout by weight. The cash prize will be one half of the tournament proceeds. Plaques will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. A plaque will also be given for the largest fish caught. **This year the entry fee will be \$10.00 per person.** Thanks to John Evans (Miss Laurie) again for donating the plaques for this year's event.

The current gas prices on the Isle Royale are:
Rock Harbor: Gas \$ 3.98/gal; Diesel \$ 3.90/gal
Windigo: Gas \$ 5.40/gal (OUCH!).

IRBA loses two longtime members

On May 18 2011 Michael "Mike" Murphy passed away at his home in Garfield, MN. Mike and his parents, Ron and Sandy Murphy have been long time members and generous supporters of IRBA over the years. The Murphys, aboard their boat "Limpin Along" made regular trips to IRNP, usually in late summer and fall. Those who knew Mike will miss his smiling and cordial presence on the island. Our sincere condolences go out to Mike's family.

Dwane "Bear" Falconer passed away on April 16, 2011, after losing a battle with cancer. Bear was a regular visitor to Isle Royale for over 50 some years. He started going to the Isle Royale with his father and mother in their boat and eventually with his own boat the "Nasty Habit". Bear was a charter member of IRBA, served on

the board of directors, and was involved in the formation of the Western chapter. Always a strong advocate for IRNP, its visitors and families, Bear worked tirelessly toward improving park infrastructure and NPS/visitor relations. He was instrumental in the planning and completion of various IRBA work projects over the last decade, and when his mobility suffered from arthritic hips, he became the "camp cook", preparing meals aboard the Nasty Habit; sausage and eggs, pancakes, fruit, sandwiches, beverages and of course fresh Lake Superior lake trout and herring. We ate well.

Bear was well known for his ability to catch "the big ones" and for his willingness to assist boaters [and hikers] in need of help. Many a boat was brought safely to the dock on the end of a line attached to the Nasty Habit.

Bear epitomizes the old saying "gone but not forgotten"; "Bear" stories will abound for years to come.

The following tribute prepared by Dwain Moe:

The BEAR was a man with a "Nasty Habit"
A boat so fast it could outrun a rabbit!

When the wind was creating too high a chop,
He'd stay at the dock with a large Ha-Ha pop!

The grill would be sizzling with his prized picnic lunch,
There would be plenty for all who cared to munch!

As we sat at "The Home" a discussion would begin,
BEAR would state his opinion with a mighty sly grin!

The wind has laid down, it's time to go out,
And BEAR was an expert at catching big trout !

The "Five of Diamonds" he'd put out each time,
And a "Silver Bullet" would be slipped on a line!

When the fishing was done and box was full,
It was back to the dock to start shooting the bull!

Now there's smooth boating ahead as BEAR charts a new course,
No Wind, No Rain, No Reefs, just a lot of big trout, of course!

NPS Update - Liz Valencia

General

We send our condolences on the loss of Duane (Bear) Falconer. His friendship was always appreciated and his presence will be missed.

Due to significant fall and winter storms, crews are busy cleaning up storm damage and trees island-wide. A volunteer crew of students from the NMU line technician course helped greatly with restoring power at Rock Harbor.

Use caution due to the extremely low water early this year. Consider bringing extra fenders. The MTU class proposals will be reviewed. No work on implementing any of the proposals will be done this year.

Installation of a fish cleaning station has been approved for the Windigo gas dock area. The park has been accepted into the Dept. of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program. A hybrid photovoltaic alternative energy system will be designed and installed at Mott, Rock Harbor, and Windigo.

Two rustic rental cabins will be constructed this summer at Windigo on the hill near the store. Upgrades to the RH lodge rooms will begin this summer.

A crew from the Historic Preservation Training Center will return this summer to complete work on the main lodge at Crystal Cove and complete the log stabilization of the Johns Hotel on Barnum Island.

The new Forever Resorts employee recreation hall will be officially dedicated in August in

honor of Denny Long, an NPS employee who drowned saving a concession employee in 1969. The NPS director, John Jarvis, has been invited to attend.

A hydrology assessment of the Siskiwit Bay dock and breakwater will be done this summer by a contractor to provide options for the dock. One of the options to be considered will be to keep a dock at the site.

The hydrology contractor will also assess the proposed dredging project at Fisherman's Home. Three Mile dock was replaced last fall. Moskey Basin dock will be repaired this spring. It will be approximately 4 ft shorter as the end that was damaged by ice will be removed.

Cultural Resources and Education/Interpretation

Work has begun on the Cultural Resources Management Plan. The effort started with public scoping meetings in Minneapolis, Duluth, Houghton, and East Lansing. Website address for the plan is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ISROcrmp>. More meetings will be held this summer. A two year effort is anticipated.

A Cultural Landscape Report for the Washington and Barnum Island area is being prepared by a contractor, Quinn Evans. A public meeting was held in Duluth in February to discuss the draft plan and preliminary treatment options. The draft plan will be out for public review later this year or early in 2012.

A 3D documentary movie on NPS submerged resources is being produced by Submerged Resources Center, which features Isle Royale shipwrecks. We previewed portions of it at dive shows this fall and winter, thanks to borrowed equipment, and it's been at other NPS venues. Recently we received funding to acquire our own 3D/HD unit.

The park will accept a significant repatriation of shipwreck items from a former park employee/diver, Dick Metz. He will bring the items to the island in July and we will accompany him to one or two shipwreck sites and interview him about early diving efforts.

Natural Resources/Research

Winter study results: 16 wolves and one remaining pack (Chippewa Harbor), with only 2 adult females positively identified. There are approximately 515 moose.

Garter snake color variation study will continue including other Great Lakes parks.

Loon banding study: Loons were banded with tracking devices last summer and the tags will be returned this year to show migratory routes and wintering areas.

A Nation-wide NPS native bee/climate change study will continue. Bees will be collected again. The purpose of the study is to determine what bees could be lost due to habitat shifts in parks related to climate change.

Harvey Lake minnow study: Samples of the three minnow types in Harvey and minnow from other inland lakes will be collected and studied and compared to determine if the Harvey Lake minnows are a separate subspecies.

A study of the species and population of bats will be started this summer.

IRBA Apparel Available

We have IRBA apparel available including: hats, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. We also have nice jackets available by special order. You can order them by contacting Carol at (906) 482-9342.

IRBA Scheduled Events

West End Fund Raiser, Thursday, June 16, 2011, 5 PM, Superior Shores Resort, Two Harbors, MN.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 15, 2011, and Saturday, July 16, 2011, at the Johnson Pavilion at Windigo, IR. Meeting July 16, 2011 5 PM followed by the fish fry.

Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome.

*Please support your IRBA
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